

**OREGON REAL ESTATE AGENCY
COMMISSIONER'S BULLETIN
August 2007**

What's new at the Oregon Real Estate Agency?

RULE REVIEW COMMITTEES TO BEGIN WORK

The staff of the Oregon Real Estate Agency has recently reviewed Oregon Administrative Rules chapter 863 (OAR 863). It is clear that most of the rules need updating. The Agency also expects that some parts of Oregon Revised Statute chapter 696 (ORS 696) will also need to be changed.

In an effort to make this the most complete update possible, we will assemble work groups and advisory groups in the areas of brokerage, property management and escrow to help with the process. Small work groups will attend meetings with Agency staff and larger advisory groups will review proposed changes and provide input.

The work group will discuss concepts of what is and isn't working in the rules, and what changes need to be made. The Agency staff will take the concepts and develop draft rules. The larger advisory groups will check to make sure that the draft rules work.

We look forward to your valuable input to improve and clarify the rules.

BACKGROUND CHECK RULES

Background checks for real estate license applicants were previously required by Executive Order. Then, in 2005, House Bill 2157 was signed into law. The law requires the Agency to develop administrative rules about the background check process. The rules will also list the types of crimes the Agency may look at to determine trustworthiness for licensing. A work group is being formed to develop these new rules.

ONLINE RENEWALS

Since the Agency began offering online license renewals, 30 to 35 percent of all renewing brokers and property managers have used the service. You can find "Online Renewals" at http://www.rea.state.or.us/REA/online_renewals_frontpage.shtml. If you have any questions about this process, you may e-mail us at rea.info@state.or.us.

AUGUST 20 REAL ESTATE BOARD MEETING

The August 20, 2007, Real Estate Board meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Astoria beginning at 10 a.m. At noon, the board will recess for a joint luncheon arranged by the Clatsop Association of Realtors. Both the meeting and luncheon are open to the public. Questions may be directed to Louann Rahmig, Board Liaison, at louann.p.rahmig@state.or.us.

If you have any questions, please call us at 503-378-4170 or email us at rea.info@state.or.us.

Gene Bentley
Commissioner
Oregon Real Estate Agency