

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL MORTGAGE LICENSING SYSTEM PROVIDES UNIFORMITY FOR INDUSTRY AND SEARCHABLE DATABASE FOR CONSUMERS

Columbia, SC.....Recent passage of Senate bill S.673 has ushered in a new licensing system for mortgage brokers, loan originators, and lenders. The National Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) will bring uniformity to an industry that has seen its variety of licensing forms and applicants over the years. The system will also benefit consumers by creating a searchable database.

What does this mean for industry professionals?

As each of the 50 states is incorporated, NMLS will serve as the central license processing center nationwide. Four uniform licensing forms will be used. These forms will ensure that mortgage brokers, loan originators, and lenders share the same license application information, regardless of state lines. States were brought into the system in waves beginning in 2008. South Carolina is expected to “go live” with the online system in January 2010. Mortgage industry professionals should refer to the NMLS website at www.stateregulatoryregistry.org/nmls or call the Department of Consumer Affairs for more information.

Where’s the benefit for consumers?

License information will be available in a public database. This searchable database means consumers can view and review information for brokers, originators, and lenders.

“The NMLS will provide consumers and regulatory agencies with valuable and useful information concerning licensees. Consumers will be able to see if the person has a license in their state and the status of the license. In the near future, consumers will be able to find if a licensee has had any disciplinary action taken against them nationwide. The database will allow consumers to file complaints related to the mortgage industry and individual licensees,” said Staff Attorney Charles Knight.

The accessibility of this information should provide potential homebuyers an extra layer of confidence by allowing them to identify licensed professionals and businesses with a history of fair and equitable trade practices.

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.scconsumer.gov.

The Department devoted significant energies and efforts to support this bill that regulates mortgage brokers and their loan originators. SCDCA has regulated mortgage brokers since 1988 and their loan originators since 2005. For more information on the NMLS, contact the Public Information Division at 803.734.4296, toll free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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