The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

SENATE, Thursday, July 24, 2014

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the House Bill to regulate real estate appraisal management companies (House, No. 3849); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2307.

For the committee, Stephen M. Brewer

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SECTION 1. Chapter 13 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
 92, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following
 section:-

4 Section 92. (a) There is hereby established a board of real estate appraisers, which shall 5 consist of 9 members to be appointed by the governor: 2 of whom shall be members of the 6 general public appointed in accordance with section 9B; 1 of whom shall be a member of the banking industry; 1 of whom shall be a representative of an appraisal management company; 1 7 8 of whom shall be an employee in charge or controlling person of an appraisal management 9 company; and 4 of whom shall be real estate appraisers. Each real estate appraiser who is a 10 member of the board shall be licensed or certified pursuant to sections 173 to 195, inclusive, of 11 chapter 112.

(b) The term of each appointed member shall be 3 years. Upon expiration of a member's
term, such member of the board shall continue to hold office until the appointment and
qualification of a successor. No person shall serve as a member of the board for more than 2
consecutive terms. The governor may remove a member for cause.

16	(c) Each member of the board shall be paid for expenses actually incurred in the
17	performance of official duties.

(d) The board shall annually elect a chairperson from among its members. The director of
professional licensure, with approval of the board, shall appoint an executive secretary to serve
the board. The division of professional licensure shall employ such other clerical and technical
assistants as may be necessary to discharge the official duties of the board.

(e) The board shall hold at least 6 meetings each year and may hold special meetings asrequired at a time and place determined by the board.

SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
 following 14 sections:-

Section 264. The following terms as used in sections 264 to 277, inclusive, shall have the
following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

28 "Analysis", a study of real estate or real property other than estimating value.

29 "Applicant", a person who applies to be registered as an appraisal management company30 in the commonwealth.

31 "Appraisal" or "real estate appraisal", written analysis, opinion or conclusion prepared by 32 a real estate appraiser relating to the nature, quality, value or utility of specified interests in, or 33 aspects of, identified real estate; provided, that an "appraisal" may be classified as a valuation or 34 an analysis, or both.

35 "Appraisal assignment", an engagement for which an appraiser is employed or retained to 36 act, or would be perceived by a third party or the public as acting, as a disinterested third party in 37 rendering an unbiased analysis, opinion or conclusion relating to the nature, quality or utility of
38 specified interests in, or aspects of, identified real estate.

39 "Appraisal management company", any corporation, limited liability company, 40 partnership, sole proprietorship, subsidiary, unit or other business entity that directly or indirectly 41 performs the following appraisal management services: (i) administers a network of fee 42 appraisers or employee appraisers to perform real estate appraisal assignments for clients; (ii) 43 receives requests for real estate appraisal services from clients and, for a fee paid by the client, 44 enters into an agreement with 1 or more independent appraisers to perform the real estate 45 appraisal services contained in the request; or (iii) otherwise serves as a third-party broker of 46 appraisal management services between clients and appraisers. 47 "Appraisal practice", valuation services performed by an individual acting as an appraiser, including, but not limited to, appraisal, appraisal review or appraisal consulting. 48 49 "Appraisal report", a written report of an appraisal.

50 "Appraisal review", the act or process of developing and communicating an opinion 51 about the quality of another appraiser's work that was performed as part of an appraisal 52 assignment related to the appraiser's data collection, analysis, opinions, conclusions, opinion of 53 value or compliance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; provided 54 however, that "appraisal review" shall not include: (i) a general examination for grammatical, 55 typographical or similar errors or (ii) a general examination for completeness including 56 regulatory or client requirements as specified in an agreement process that does not communicate 57 an opinion of value.

58 "Appraisal services", the services required to perform an appraisal, including defining the 59 scope of work, inspecting the property, reviewing necessary and appropriate public and private 60 data sources including, but not limited to, multiple listing services, tax assessment records and 61 public land records, developing and rendering an opinion of value and preparing and submitting 62 the appraisal report.

63 "Board", the board of registration of real estate appraisers established by section 92 of64 chapter 13.

65 "Controlling person", (1) an officer or director of an appraisal management company or 66 an individual who holds a 10 per cent or greater ownership interest in an appraisal management 67 company; (2) an individual employed, appointed or authorized by an appraisal management 68 company who has the authority to enter into a contractual relationship with clients for the 69 performance of appraisal services and who has the authority to enter into agreements with independent appraisers for the completion of appraisals; or (3) an individual who possesses the 70 71 power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of an appraisal management 72 company.

"Covered transaction", an extension of consumer credit that is or will be secured by theconsumer's principal dwelling.

"Dwelling", a residential structure that contains 1 to 4 units, whether or not that structure
is attached to real property, an individual condominium unit, cooperative unit, mobile home or
trailer, if it is used as the consumer's principal residence.

78	"Employee in charge", a designated employee of the appraisal management company,
79	who is an appraiser certified in the commonwealth, with the responsibilities and obligations to
80	the board as set forth in section 269.

81	"Fee Appraiser", (i) a person who is a state-licensed or state-certified appraiser and
82	receives a fee for performing an appraisal, but who is not an employee of the person engaging
83	the appraiser; or (ii) an organization that, in the ordinary course of business, employs state-
84	licensed or state-certified appraisers to perform appraisals, receives a fee for performing the
85	appraisals and is not subject to section 1124 of the federal Financial Institutions Reform,
86	Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 codified at 12 U.S.C. § 3353; provided however, that a
87	"fee appraiser", as defined in clause (i), shall be exempt from section 148B of chapter 149.
88	"Person", an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company,
89	limited partnership, corporation, association or other group engaged in joint business activities,
90	however organized.
91	"Real estate", an identified parcel or tract of land including improvements, if any.

92 "Real estate appraiser", a person who develops and communicates real estate appraisals
93 and who holds a current, valid certificate as a state-certified general real estate appraiser, state94 certified residential real estate appraiser or state-licensed real estate appraiser pursuant to section
95 178.

96 "Real property", 1 or more defined interests, benefits and rights inherent in the ownership97 of real estate.

98 "Registrant", a real estate appraisal management company registered pursuant to sections
99 264 to 277, inclusive.

100 "Valuation", an estimate of the value of real estate or real property.

101 "Valuation Services", services pertaining to all aspects of property value.

102 Section 265. (a) No person shall directly or indirectly engage, or attempt to engage, in 103 business as an appraisal management company, to directly or indirectly engage or attempt to 104 perform appraisal management services or to advertise or hold itself out as engaging in or 105 conducting business as an appraisal management company without first being registered by the 106 board pursuant to sections 264 to 277, inclusive, regardless of the person's use of the term 107 "appraisal management company", "mortgage technology company" or any other name.

108 (b) Sections 264 to 277, inclusive, shall not apply to:

109 (i) an agency of the federal government or any state or municipal government;

(ii) an appraisal management company that is a subsidiary, owned and controlled
by a financial institution regulated by a federal financial institution regulatory agency, provided
that the appraisal management company shall be in compliance with section 1124 of the federal
Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989, codified at 12 U.S.C. §
3353, and any rules promulgated under that section;

(iii) a licensed real estate broker or salesperson performing activities in
accordance with section 174; provided, however, that an exempt person shall not include a real
estate broker or salesperson who receives compensation of any kind in connection with the
referral or placement of an appraisal assignment; or

(iv) an appraisal management company exempt from licensure under rules andregulations adopted by the board.

(c) A fee appraiser shall not perform appraisal services for real property located in the
commonwealth for an appraisal management company, which is not registered pursuant to
sections 264 to 277, inclusive, unless the company is exempt from licensing as provided in this
section.

Section 266. The board may adopt rules and regulations to implement sections 264 to277, inclusive.

127 Section 267. (a) Applicants shall make a written application to the board on a form 128 prescribed by the board, which shall set forth the applicant's qualifications for registration. The 129 application shall identify each controlling person within the appraisal management company. 130 The application shall be accompanied by the applicable fee, as determined annually by the 131 secretary of administration and finance pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7 and any other 132 information the board deems necessary pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board. 133 Upon receipt of a completed application and fee the board shall determine whether each 134 controlling person is of good moral character. If an applicant meets the board's qualifications, 135 the board shall then issue a certificate of registration to the applicant authorizing the applicant to 136 act as a real estate appraisal management company in the commonwealth.

(b) An application for registration shall include the following certifications from theapplicant:

(i) a certification that the applicant has a system and process in place to verify thata person being added to the appraiser panel of the appraisal management company for appraisal

141 assignments on real property located in the commonwealth holds a license or certification in142 good standing in the commonwealth issued pursuant to this chapter;

(ii) a certification that the applicant has a system in place to review the work of all
fee appraisers that are performing real estate appraisal services for the appraisal management
company on a periodic basis to confirm that the real estate appraisal services are being conducted
in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(iii) a certification that the applicant maintains a detailed record of each service
request that it receives and the fee appraiser that performs the residential real estate appraisal
services for the appraisal management company.

(c) A person who, directly or indirectly, owns more than 10 per cent of an appraisal management company seeking registration, or any officer, controlling person, employee in charge or managing principal of a appraisal management company seeking registration shall not be eligible for registration if (i) the individual had a license or certificate to act as an appraiser or to engage in any activity related to the transfer of real property refused, denied, canceled or revoked in the commonwealth or in any other state, whether on a temporary or permanent basis or (ii) the individual is not of good moral character as determined by the board.

(d) A registrant having a good faith belief that a real estate appraiser licensed in the
commonwealth has violated applicable law or the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
Practice or has engaged in unethical conduct shall promptly file a complaint with the board.

Section 268. An appraisal management company applying to the board for registration
shall designate 1 employee in charge who shall be the main contact for all communication
between the board and the appraisal management company.

Section 269. In order to serve as the employee in charge for a registered appraisal
management company, a designee shall, in addition to continually holding a valid license issued
by the board as a state-certified appraiser:

(1) not have had a license to practice as an appraiser or to engage in any activity related
to the transfer of real property refused, denied, canceled or revoked in the commonwealth or in
any other state;

169 (2) be of good moral character;

170 (3) submit to a state background investigation; and

171 (4) shall be responsible for:

(i) management of the process of selecting appraisers for the performance of realestate appraisal services;

(ii) management of the process of conducting appraisal reviews; provided, that an
employee of an appraisal management company or a contractor working on behalf of the
company who has any involvement in the performance of an appraisal review, of completed
appraisals of real property located in the commonwealth, shall be licensed or certified in the
commonwealth and in good standing pursuant to sections 264 to 277, inclusive; and

179 (iii) maintaining required documentation as part of the board file.

Section 270. An appraisal management company shall file a form with the board indicating the appraisal management company's designation of a controlling person and employee in charge and the individual's acceptance of the responsibility. An appraisal management company shall notify the board of any change in the appraisal management 184 company's controlling person or employee in charge and shall have 30 days from the date a 185 vacancy occurs in either position to designate a temporary or permanent replacement and, in the 186 event a temporary designation is made, 90 days to appoint a permanent replacement. An 187 appraisal management company that does not comply with this section shall have the appraisal 188 management company's registration suspended, pursuant to section 274, until the appraisal 189 management company complies with this section. An individual operating an appraisal 190 management company as a sole proprietorship shall be a certified general or certified residential 191 appraiser and shall be considered the managing principal for purposes of sections 264 to 277, 192 inclusive, unless another managing principal is designated.

Section 271. The following fees shall be determined annually by the secretary of administration and finance pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7 and shall be collected by the board: (a) application fee; (b) initial license fee; (c) annual renewal fee; (d) change in controlling person or employee in charge fee; and (e) late renewal fee. All licensing and application fees and civil administrative penalties collected pursuant to sections 264 to 277, inclusive, shall be deposited into the Division of Professional Licensure Trust Fund, established in section 35V of chapter 10.

Section 272. In addition to the filing fee, each applicant for registration shall post with the board and maintain a surety bond in an amount designated by the board. The bond shall: (i) be in the form prescribed by the board; and (ii) accrue to the commonwealth for the benefit of a claimant against the registrant to secure the faithful performance of the registrant's obligations pursuant to sections 264 to 277, inclusive. The aggregate liability of the surety shall not exceed the principal sum of the bond. A party having a claim against the registrant may bring suit directly on the surety bond or the board may bring suit on behalf of the party having a claim against the registrant. A deposit of cash or security may be accepted in lieu of the surety bond. A claim reducing the face amount of the bond shall be annually restored upon renewal of the registrant's registration.

Section 273. (a) No employee, director, officer, managing principal or agent of an
appraisal management company or any other third party acting as joint venture partner or
independent contractor shall influence or attempt to influence the development, reporting, result
or review of a real estate appraisal through coercion, extortion, collusion, compensation,
inducement, intimidation, bribery or in any other manner including, but not limited to:

(1) withholding or threatening to withhold timely payment for a real estate
appraisal report except in cases of breach of contract or substandard performance of services;

(2) withholding or threatening to withhold future business from a real estate
appraiser or demoting or terminating or threatening to demote or terminate a real estate
appraiser;

(3) expressly or impliedly promising future business, promotions or increasedcompensation for a real estate appraiser;

(4) conditioning the ordering of a real estate appraisal report or the payment of a
real estate appraisal fee, salary, or bonus on the opinion, conclusion or valuation to be reached or
on a preliminary estimate requested from a real estate appraiser;

225	(5) requesting that a real estate appraiser provide an estimated, predetermined or
226	desired valuation in a real estate appraisal report or provide estimated values or comparable sales
227	at any time before the appraiser's completion of the appraisal report;
228	(6) providing to a real estate appraiser an anticipated, estimated, encouraged or
229	desired value for a subject property or a proposed or targeted amount to be loaned to the
230	borrower; provided, however, a real estate appraiser shall be provided with a copy of the sales
231	contract for purchase transactions, if available;
232	(7) providing to a real estate appraiser, or any entity or person related to the
233	appraiser, stock or other financial or non-financial benefits;
234	(8) allowing the removal of a real estate appraiser from a list of qualified
235	appraisers used by any entity without prior written notice stating the reason for removal to the
236	appraiser; provide, that said notice shall include written evidence if the appraiser is removed
237	from the list for illegal conduct, substandard performance or otherwise improper or
238	unprofessional behavior or any violation of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
239	Practice or licensing standards of the commonwealth;
240	(9) any other act or practice that impairs or attempts to impair a real estate
241	appraiser's independence, objectivity or impartiality; or
242	(10) requesting or requiring a real estate appraiser to collect a fee from, or be
243	compensated by, the borrower, homeowner, real estate agent, mortgage broker or any other third
244	party in the provision of real estate appraisal services.

(b) No employee, director, officer, managing principal or agent of an appraisal
management company or any other third party acting as joint venture partner or independent
contractor shall:

(1) alter, modify or otherwise change a completed appraisal report submitted by a
fee appraiser without the appraiser's written knowledge and consent;

- (2) alter, modify or otherwise change a completed appraisal report submitted by a
 fee appraiser and shall transmit a true and exact copy to the client and any intended users;
- (3) use an appraisal report submitted by a fee appraiser for any other transaction;

(4) require a fee appraiser to sign any indemnification agreement that would
require the fee appraiser to defend and hold harmless the appraisal management company or any
of its agents, employees or independent contractors for any liability, damage, losses or claims
arising out of the services performed by the appraisal management company or its agents,
employees or independent contractors and not the services performed by the fee appraiser;

(5) require a fee appraiser to provide the company with the appraiser's digitalsignature or seal;

(6) prohibit a fee appraiser from recording the fee that the fee appraiser was paid
for the performance of an appraisal assignment within the body of the appraisal report;

(7) require a fee appraiser to accept an appraisal assignment if the fee appraiser, in
the fee appraiser's own independent professional judgment believes that: (i) the fee appraiser
does not have the necessary expertise for the assignment or knowledge of the geographic area;
or (ii) that the time frame does not allow the appraiser the ability to meet all of the fee

266	appraiser's relevant legal or professional obligations; provided that the fee appraiser has
267	communicated such belief to the appraisal management company; or
268	(8) knowingly fail to compensate fee appraisers at a customary and reasonable
269	rate for appraisal services in the market area of the property being appraised, consistent with
270	section 129E of the federal Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. §1639e (i), and regulations
271	promulgated thereunder.
272	(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an appraisal management
273	company from requesting that a fee appraiser:
274	(1) consider additional appropriate material property information;
275	(2) provide further detail, substantiation or explanation for the real estate
276	appraiser's value conclusion; or
277	(3) correct errors in the real estate appraisal report.
278	(d) An appraisal management company shall not refuse to assign requests or orders for
279	appraisals or reduce the number of assignments or otherwise penalize a fee appraiser who does
280	not accept an assignment or order in accordance with clause (7) of subsection (b), except that
281	nothing in this section shall require an appraisal management company to offer future appraisal
282	assignments of a particular nature or type to a fee appraiser who previously indicated a lack of
283	the necessary expertise or geographic knowledge for such assignments, except in the case where
284	the fee appraiser subsequently demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the appraisal management
285	company, that the fee appraiser has gained the required experience or geographic knowledge to
286	competently complete the assignments.

287	Section 274. (a) The board, pursuant to sections 61 to 65C, inclusive, may, by order,
288	deny, suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew a registration of an appraisal management
289	company or may restrict or limit activities of a controlling person or employee in charge if the
290	board determines that the controlling person or employee in charge has done any of the
291	following:
292	(1) filed an application for registration that, as of its effective date or as of any
293	date after filing, contained any statement that, in light of the circumstances under which it was
294	made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact;
295	(2) violated or failed to comply with section 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273 or
296	275 or any rule or regulation adopted by the board;
297	(3) been convicted of any felony or, within the past 5 years, been convicted of any
298	misdemeanor involving any activity related to the transfer of real property, including, but not
299	limited to, mortgage lending or real estate appraisal or any offense involving breach of trust,
300	moral turpitude or fraudulent or dishonest dealing;
301	(4) been permanently or temporarily enjoined by any court of competent
302	jurisdiction from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice involving any aspect of the
303	real estate appraisal management business;
304	(5) been the subject of an order of the board or any other state appraiser
305	regulatory agency denying, suspending or revoking the person's license as a real estate appraiser;
306	(6) acted as an appraisal management company while not properly licensed by the
307	board;

308 (7) structured an appraisal assignment or a contract with a fee appraiser to evade
309 sections 264 to 277, inclusive; or

310 (8) failed to pay the proper filing or renewal fee pursuant to sections 264 to311 277,inclusive.

(b) The board may, pursuant to sections 61 to 65C, inclusive, by order, impose a civil
penalty upon a controlling person or employee in charge for any violation of sections 264 to 277,
inclusive. The civil penalty shall not exceed \$10,000 for each violation.

315 (c) In addition to other powers set forth in sections 264 to 277, inclusive, upon finding 316 that an action of a person is in violation of section 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273 or 275, the 317 board may order the person to cease from the prohibited action. If the person subject to the order 318 fails to appeal the order of the board or the person appeals the order and the appeal is denied or 319 dismissed and the person continues to engage in the prohibited action in violation of the board's 320 order, the person shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation of 321 the order. The penalties under this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other law 322 applicable to a registrant for the registrant's failure to comply with an order of the board.

323 (d) Unless otherwise provided, all actions and hearings arising under sections 264 to 277,
324 inclusive, shall be governed by chapter 30A.

325 (e) If the board has reasonable grounds to believe that an appraisal management company 326 has violated section 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273 or 275 or that facts exist that would be the 327 basis for an order against an appraisal management company, the board may at any time, either 328 personally or by a person duly designated by the board, investigate or examine the books, accounts, records and files of any registrant or other person relating to the complaint or matterunder investigation.

(f) The board may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of persons and the production of papers and records before the board in any hearing, investigation, inquiry, or other proceeding conducted by the board. Upon the production of any papers, records or documents, the board may authorize true copies of the papers, records or documents to be substituted in the permanent record of the matter in which the papers, records or documents shall have been introduced in evidence.

337 Section 275. (a) The board shall maintain a list of all applicants for registration pursuant
338 to sections 264 to 277, inclusive, which shall include for each applicant, the date of application,
339 the name and primary business location of the applicant and whether the registration was granted
340 or refused.

(b) The board shall maintain a current roster, which shall list the names and places of
business of all registered appraisal management companies and list the appraisal management
companies' respective officers and directors. The rosters shall: (i) be kept on file in the office of
the board; (ii) contain information regarding all orders or other action taken against each
company, its officers and other persons; and (iii) be open to public inspection.

346 (c) Every registered appraisal management company shall maintain the records related to
347 services provided by the appraisal management company as prescribed in regulations adopted by
348 the board. All records shall be preserved for 5 years unless the board, by regulation, prescribes
349 otherwise for particular types of records.

350	(d) If the information contained in any document filed with the board is or becomes
351	inaccurate or incomplete in any material respect, the appraisal management company shall
352	promptly file a correcting amendment to the information contained in the document.

353 Section 276. The board may appear in its own name in superior court in actions for 354 injunctive relief to prevent any person from violating section 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273 355 or 275 or regulations adopted by the board. The superior court shall have the power to grant an 356 injunction regardless of whether criminal prosecution has been or may be instituted as a result of 357 the violations or whether the person is the holder of a registration issued by the board pursuant to 358 sections 264 to 277, inclusive.

359 Section 277. (a) The board may conduct investigations and examinations, pursuant to
 360 sections 61 to 65C, inclusive, for the purposes of:

361 (1) initial registration, registration renewal, registration suspension, registration 362 conditioning, registration revocation or termination or general or specific inquiry or investigation 363 to determine compliance with sections 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 272, 273, 274 and 275; provided, 364 that the board may access, receive and use any books, accounts, records, files, documents, information or evidence including, but not limited to: (i) criminal, civil and administrative 365 366 history information, including non-conviction data as specified in applicable general laws; and 367 (ii) any other documents, information or evidence the board deems relevant to the inquiry or 368 investigation regardless of the location, possession, control or custody of the documents, 369 information or evidence: and

370 (2) determining whether violations or complaints arising under sections 265, 267,
371 268, 269, 270, 272, 273, 274 and 275 are valid.

372 (b) If an applicant, registrant or managing principal's criminal history record check 373 reveals 1 or more convictions, the conviction shall not automatically bar registration; if the 374 conviction is unrelated to the transfer of real property. The board shall consider the following 375 factors regarding the conviction: (i) the level of seriousness of the crime; (ii) the date of the 376 crime; (iii) the age of the person at the time of the conviction; (iv) the circumstances surrounding 377 the commission of the crime, if known; (v) the nexus between the criminal conduct of the person 378 and the job duties of the position to be filled; and (vi) the person's prison, jail, probation, parole, 379 rehabilitation and employment records since the date the crime was committed.