

Bank Commissioner must approve all applications for a branch office made by a State bank, trust company, or mutual savings institution, and must pass upon all amendments to their charters. He must also approve any mergers or voluntary liquidations. On June 30 of each year he must make a written report to the Governor (Code 1957, 1976 Repl. Vol., Art. 11, secs. 1-118).

The General Assembly of 1929 passed what is known as the "Credit Union Law," which provides that any seven or more persons, residents of this State, may apply to the Bank Commissioner for permission to organize a Credit Union. The Commissioner supervises all such Credit Unions (Code 1957, 1976 Repl. Vol., Art. 11, secs. 135-62.)

The Department also has jurisdiction over industrial finance companies under the provisions of the "Industrial Finance Law," passed in 1945. The Act generally provides that no person or corporation may charge interest or other charges in the aggregate above that permitted by law on loans of fifteen hundred dollars or less if this person or corporation is not a licensee under the terms of the law. All companies and individuals transacting business under the terms of this statute must secure a license from the Bank Commissioner. At least once in every thirty-six months, the Department is required to examine each licensee; and each licensee must submit to the Commissioner an annual report setting forth such information as the Commissioner may reasonably require. The Bank Commissioner has the power to revoke or suspend licenses for infractions of the law. He also has the power to exempt certain companies from the terms of the "Industrial Finance Act." Automatically exempted from the Act are those companies and individuals that are doing business under the terms of the "Small Loan Law," which is administered by the Commissioner of Small Loans (1957 Code, 1968 Repl. Vol., Art. 11, secs. 163-205).

The Maryland Currency Exchange Law, which became effective on January 1, 1960, requires the Bank Commissioner to supervise and regulate the selling or issuing of

checks, drafts, and money orders for a fee or service charge. Persons who wish to transact such business in Maryland must qualify with the Bank Commissioner and procure an annual license from him.

By Chapter 390, Acts of 1967, the General Assembly enacted a "Secondary Mortgage Law" which provided generally for the licensing of persons in the business of negotiating secondary mortgage loans and to provide for regulations. It placed the responsibility upon the Bank Commissioner to license and regulate the business as well as to supervise all licenses (Code 1957, 1972 Repl. Vol., Art. 66, secs. 39-71).

The Maryland Higher Education Loan Corporation (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 43A, sec. 11) and the Development Credit Corporation are subject to supervision by the Bank Commissioner (Code 1957, 1973 Repl. Vol., Art. 23, sec. 426A).

Mortgage brokers or mortgage bankers are required to register with the Bank Commissioner and pay an annual registration fee (Code 1957, 1976 Repl. Vol., Art. 11, sec. 61A).

Staff: 40.

BANK REGULATION BOARD

Ex officio members: William L. Wilson, J. Stevenson Peck, Roger W. Simpkins, C. Edgar Smith, Jr.

Appointed members: Herbert Goldman, 1977; Luther W. Gregory, 1977; Paul A. Meyer, 1977.

The Bank Regulation Board is comprised of the Bank Commissioner, the Banking Board and three persons not employed by any banking institution who are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation for a two year term. Of the three appointed members, one shall be a certified public accountant, one shall be an economist, and one shall represent the public at large.

The Bank Regulation Board may by majority vote authorize State banks to engage in banking activities as permitted by Federal law, notwithstanding restrictions and