

resources and liabilities of the institution. These reports are published in local newspapers.

All new State banking institutions must incorporate under the supervision of the State Bank Commissioner and must obtain a certificate before opening for business. The Commissioner must approve all applications for a branch office made by a State bank, trust company, or mutual savings bank, and must pass upon all amendments to their charters as well as the establishment of affiliates and subsidiaries. The Commissioner also must approve any mergers or voluntary liquidations and acquisitions of State-chartered or national banks by out-of-state bank holding companies. On June 30 of each year, the Commissioner submits a written report to the Governor (Code Financial Institutions Article, secs. 2-101 through 5-1007).

Under the Credit Union Law, any seven or more Maryland residents sharing common occupational, residential or social experiences or characteristics may act as incorporators to form a credit union and apply to the State Bank Commissioner for permission to organize.

The State Bank Commissioner supervises all State-chartered credit unions and is required to examine these institutions at least once each year. All credit unions must report annually to the Commissioner (Code Financial Institutions Article, secs. 6-101 through 6-704).

State-chartered credit unions may be insured by the National Credit Union Administration or the Credit Union Insurance Corporation (Chapter 658, Acts of 1973). The State Bank Commissioner must certify to the Corporation a credit union's financial affairs, solvency, management, and directorship as being approved for insurance of its members' shares and deposit accounts (Code Financial Institutions Article, secs. 7-101 through 7-117).

The Sellers of Money Orders and Traveler's Checks Law requires the State Bank Commissioner to supervise and regulate persons issuing checks, drafts, and money orders for a fee. Persons who wish to transact such business in Maryland must procure an annual license from the Commissioner. All such persons must report periodically to the Commissioner on agent charges, financial structure, and other conditions relative to their functions under the Law (Code Financial Institutions Article, secs. 12-401 through 12-424).

Tax-exempt financial institutions may apply to the State Bank Commissioner to be supervised and examined by the State Bank Commissioner (Code Financial Institutions Article, sec. 12-701). These institutions include nonstock corporations exempt from taxes under the Internal Revenue Code (sec. 501 (c)(3)), as amended; financial institutions engaged solely in extending credit and loans to socially or economically disadvantaged businesses for their business and commercial development; and a majority and all controlling members of a financial institution who are persons, designated and ap-

proved by any banking institution or national banking association.

The Maryland Higher Education Loan Corporation is subject to supervision by the State Bank Commissioner (Code Education Article, secs. 18-1001 through 18-1014).

The State Bank Commissioner's office also handles consumer complaints against institutions under its jurisdiction.

Appointed by the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation with the approval of the Governor, the State Bank Commissioner holds office at the pleasure of the Secretary. Authorization for the State Bank Commissioner continues until July 1, 2002 (Code Financial Institutions Article, sec. 2-401).

BANKING BOARD

Vacancy, *Chairperson*

(410) 333-6808

The Banking Board was established in 1935 (Chapter 489, Acts of 1935). The Board advises the State Bank Commissioner on any matter concerning the business of any State banking institution. The Board also assists the Commissioner with approval or disapproval of applications by banking institutions and foreign banking corporations. If the Commissioner does not follow the Banking Board's advice, the Commissioner must notify the Board in writing of the reason for the action.

The Board is composed of the Comptroller of the Treasury and seven members appointed to six-year terms by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Licensing and Regulation. One member represents the Baltimore Clearing House, one the Associated Mutual Savings Banks of Baltimore, and one the Maryland State Bankers' Association. One member is an economist, and one a certified public accountant, neither of whom may be employed by any banking institution. Two members represent the general public (Code Financial Institutions Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-204).

COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER CREDIT

Alan T. Fell, *Commissioner*

501 St. Paul Place
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(410) 333-6801

The office of Commissioner of Consumer Credit was originally established as the Administrator of Loan Laws in 1941, superseding a similar office established in 1939 under the jurisdiction of the Bank Commissioner (Chapter 741, Acts of 1939; Chapter 289, Acts of 1941). It adopted the name of Commissioner of Small Loans in 1970 and its present name in 1974 (Chapter 402, Acts of 1970; Chapter 457, Acts of 1974).

The Commissioner of Consumer Credit licenses, registers, and regulates consumer loan companies,