

8. Criminal provisions; uniform penalty.

Fee changes.

The revision increases the application fees from \$70 to \$80 for a real estate broker license, from \$20 to \$50 for an associate real estate broker license, and from \$20 to \$30 for a real estate salesperson license. For real estate brokers and real estate salespersons, these changes make the original license fee (i.e., the application fee) the same as the current license renewal fee. The increase in the associate real estate broker application fee makes that fee commensurate with the intermediate status of an associate real estate broker license -- i.e., it is set between the \$80 application fee for real estate brokers and the \$30 application fee for real estate salespersons.

The revision does not change the renewal fee for a real estate broker or real estate salesperson license. However, the revision does raise the renewal fee for an associate real estate broker license from \$30 to \$50. This increase makes the renewal fee the same as that set, under the revision, for application for that license and, as with the application fee, makes the renewal fee commensurate with the intermediate status of the associate real estate broker license.

9.

The former law contained a number of provisions that appeared to be criminal prohibitions, but for which no criminal penalty was specified. The revision remedies this problem by adding the following to a list of criminal provisions under § 4-613 of this title:

- (1) § 4-502 ["Handling of trust money"];
- (2) § 4-604 ["Paying compensation"];
- (3) § 4-605 ["Prohibited payments to lawyers; soliciting referral business"];
- (4) § 4-606 ["Advertisements on property showing cost and capitalization of ground rent"]; and
- (5) § 4-607 ["Designation of title insurance, settlement, or escrow company or title lawyer"].

Section 4-613(a) of the revised title consolidates as a single subsection the inexplicably diverse criminal provisions that appeared in the former law. The effect is to provide a uniform penalty provision that applies to the violation of all but 1 of the criminal provisions in the revised title. The general penalty is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both. The single exception is covered