

undermines Maryland's long-standing policy of promoting reciprocity between the regulatory boards in Maryland and those in other states. Reciprocity is a valuable tool in easing the regulatory burden for individuals who wish to practice their profession in more than one state. Many instances currently exist in law that promote reciprocity. For instance, § 16-305 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article allows the State Commission of Real Estate Appraisers to waive the examination requirement for an out-of-state applicant as long as the applicant is licensed to provide real estate appraisal services in another state and that state waives the examination requirement for Maryland licensees to a similar extent. Similar provisions also exist for landscape architects (§ 9-306 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article), interior designers (§ 8-304 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article), and electricians (§ 6-308 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article) as well as for podiatrists (§ 16-305 of the Health Occupations Article), morticians (§ 7-305 of the Health Occupations Article), and professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and alcohol and drug counselors (§ 17-305 of the Health Occupations Article).

In addition, many bills passed the General Assembly this Session which acknowledge the importance and benefit of reciprocity. For example, House Bill 809 specifies that the fee charged to a nonresident for an annual angler's license must be the greater of \$20 or a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license. Furthermore, Senate Bill 550 allows the Director of the Bureau of Mines to enter into an agreement with an agency responsible for the regulation of coal mining in another state to provide for the recognition in Maryland of mine foreman and fire-boss certificates or other certifications issued by that state if the other state provides reciprocal recognition of certificates issued by the Bureau of Mines.

It is also worth noting that, while I cannot support the potential erosion of Maryland's long-standing policy of promoting reciprocity between states, I do support the use of alternative instructional media, such as Internet-based courses, as provided for in House Bill 844. Over the next four years, we will be completing the development of a statewide high speed data network that will provide universal access to information for the citizens of Maryland. This network will encourage "long-distance learning" by allowing universities and colleges to share information with relative ease. In order for Maryland to continue to grow in this rapidly evolving e-commerce market, we must encourage the use of the Internet.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 844.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 844

AN ACT concerning

Real Estate Brokers - Continuing Education Requirements