WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2012

ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
Senate Bill No. 551
(SENATOR SNYDER, ORIGINAL SPONSOR)

[PASSED MARCH 10, 2012; IN EFFECT FROM PASSAGE.]
AN ACT to amend and reenact §31-17-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibitions on primary and subordinate mortgage loans.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §31-17-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 17. WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDER, BROKER AND SERVICER ACT.

§31-17-8. Maximum interest rate on subordinate loans; prepayment rebate; maximum points, fees and charges; overriding of federal limitations; limitations on lien documents; prohibitions on primary and subordinate mortgage loans; civil remedy.

(a) The maximum rate of finance charges on or in connection with any subordinate mortgage loan may not exceed eighteen percent per year on the unpaid balance of the amount financed.
(b) A borrower shall have the right to prepay his or her debt, in whole or in part, at any time and shall receive a rebate for any unearned finance charge, exclusive of any points, investigation fees and loan origination fees, which rebate shall be computed under the actuarial method.

(c) Except as provided by section one hundred nine, article three, chapter forty-six-a of this code and by subsection (g) of this section, no additional charges may be made, nor may any charge permitted by this section be assessed unless the loan is made: Provided, That in the event the loan is not made, the licensee is not required to refund an appraisal fee that is collected from a loan applicant by the licensee and paid to an unrelated third-party appraiser unless the fee is required to be refunded pursuant to federal law.

(d) Where loan origination fees, investigation fees or points have been charged by the licensee, the charges may not be imposed again in any refinancing of that loan or any additional loan on that property made within twenty-four months thereof, unless the new loan has a reasonable, tangible net benefit to the borrower considering all of the circumstances, including the terms of both the new and the refinanced loans, the cost of the new loan and the borrower's circumstances. The licensee shall document this benefit in writing on a form prescribed by the commissioner and maintain the documentation in the loan file. To the extent this subdivision overrides the preemption on limiting points and other charges on first lien residential mortgage loans contained in the United States Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980, 12 U. S. C. §1735f-7a, the state law limitations contained in this section shall apply.

(e) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, a delinquent charge or late charge may be charged on any installment made ten or more days after the regularly scheduled due date in accordance with section one hundred twelve or one hundred thirteen, article three, chapter forty-six-a of this code, whichever is applicable. The charge
may be made only once on any one installment during the
term of the primary or subordinate mortgage loan.

(f) Hazard insurance may be required by the lender. The
charges for any insurance shall not exceed the standard rate
approved by the Insurance Commissioner for the insurance.
Proof of all insurance in connection with primary and
subordinate mortgage loans subject to this article shall be
furnished to the borrower within thirty days from and after
the date of application therefor by the borrower.

(g) Except for fees for services provided by unrelated
third parties for appraisals, inspections, title searches and
credit reports, no application fee may be allowed whether or
not the mortgage loan is consummated; however, the bor-
rower may be required to reimburse the licensee for actual
expenses incurred by the licensee in a purchase money
transaction after acceptance and approval of a mortgage loan
proposal made in accordance with the provisions of this
article which is not consummated because of:

(1) The borrower's willful failure to close the loan; or

(2) The borrower's false or fraudulent representation of
a material fact which prevents closing of the loan as pro-
posed.

(h) No licensee shall make, offer to make, accept or offer
to accept any primary or subordinate mortgage loan except
on the terms and conditions authorized in this article.

(i) No licensee shall induce or permit any borrower to
become obligated to the licensee under this article, directly
or contingently, or both, under more than one subordinate
mortgage loan at the same time for the purpose or with the
result of obtaining greater charges than would otherwise be
permitted under the provisions of this article.

(j) No instrument evidencing or securing a primary or
subordinate mortgage loan shall contain:

(1) Any power of attorney to confess judgment;
(2) Any provision whereby the borrower waives any rights accruing to him or her under the provisions of this article;

(3) Any requirement that more than one installment be payable in any one installment period, or that the amount of any installment be greater or less than that of any other installment, except for the final installment which may be in a lesser amount, or unless the loan is structured as a revolving line of credit having no set final payment date;

(4) Any assignment of or order for the payment of any salary, wages, commissions or other compensation for services, or any part thereof, earned or to be earned;

(5) A requirement for compulsory arbitration which does not comply with federal law; or

(6) Blank or blanks to be filled in after the consummation of the loan. A borrower must be given a copy of every signed document executed by the borrower at the time of closing.

(k) No licensee shall charge a borrower or receive from a borrower money or other valuable consideration as compensation before completing performance of all services the licensee has agreed to perform for the borrower unless the licensee also registers and complies with all requirements set forth for credit service organizations in article six-c, chapter forty-six-a of this code, including all additional bonding requirements as may be established therein.

(l) No licensee shall make or broker revolving loans secured by a primary or subordinate mortgage lien for the retail purchase of consumer goods and services by use of a lender credit card.

(m) In making any primary or subordinate mortgage loan, no licensee may, and no primary or subordinate mortgage lending transaction may, contain terms which:

(1) Collect a fee not disclosed to the borrower; collect any attorney fee at closing in excess of the fee that has been or
will be remitted to the attorney; collect a fee for a product or service where the product or service is not actually provided; misrepresent the amount charged by or paid to a third party for a product or service; or collect duplicate fee or points to act as both broker and lender for the same mortgage loan, however, fees and points may be divided between the broker and the lender as they agree, but may not exceed the total charges otherwise permitted under this article: Provided, That the fact of any fee, point or compensation is disclosed to the borrower consistent with the solicitation representation made to the borrower;

(2) Compensate, whether directly or indirectly, coerce or intimidate an appraiser for the purpose of influencing the independent judgment of the appraiser with respect to the value of real estate that is to be covered by a deed of trust or is being offered as security according to an application for a primary or subordinate mortgage loan;

(3) Make or assist in making any primary or subordinate mortgage loan with the intent that the loan will not be repaid and that the lender will obtain title to the property through foreclosure: Provided, That this subdivision shall not apply to reverse mortgages obtained under the provisions of article twenty-four, chapter forty-seven of this code;

(4) Require the borrower to pay, in addition to any periodic interest, combined fees, compensation or points of any kind to the lender and broker to arrange, originate, evaluate, maintain or service a loan secured by any encumbrance on residential property that exceed, in the aggregate, six percent of the loan amount financed, including any yield spread premium paid by the lender to the broker: Provided, That reasonable closing costs, as defined in section one hundred two, article one, chapter forty-six-a of this code, payable to unrelated third parties may not be included within this limitation: Provided, however, That no yield spread premium is permitted for any loan for which the annual percentage rate exceeds eighteen percent per year on the unpaid balance of the amount financed: Provided further, That if no yield spread premium is charged, the aggregate of
fees, compensation or points can be no greater than five
percent of the loan amount financed. The financing of the
fees and points are permissible and, where included as part
of the finance charge, does not constitute charging interest
on interest. To the extent that this section overrides the
preemption on limiting points and other charges on first lien
residential mortgage loans contained in the United States
Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control
Act of 1980, 12 U. S. C. §1735f-7a, the state law limitations
contained in this section apply;

(5) Secure a primary or subordinate mortgage loan by
any security interest in personal property unless the personal
property is affixed to the residential dwelling or real estate;

(6) Allow or require a primary or subordinate mortgage
loan to be accelerated because of a decrease in the market
value of the residential dwelling that is securing the loan;

(7) Require terms of repayment which do not result in
continuous monthly reduction of the original principal
amount of the loan: Provided, That the provisions of this
subdivision may not apply to reverse mortgage loans ob-
tained under article twenty-four, chapter forty-seven of this
code, home equity, open-end lines of credit, bridge loans
used in connection with the purchase or construction of a
new residential dwelling or commercial loans for multiple
residential purchases;

(8) Secure a primary or subordinate mortgage loan in a
principal amount that, when added to the aggregate total of
the outstanding principal balances of all other primary or
subordinate mortgage loans secured by the same property,
exceeds the fair market value of the property on the date that
the latest mortgage loan is made. For purposes of this
paragraph, a broker or lender may rely upon a bona fide
written appraisal of the property made by an independent
third-party appraiser, duly licensed or certified by the West
Virginia Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification
Board and prepared in compliance with the uniform stan-
dards of professional appraisal practice: Provided, That
commencing January 1, 2012, and continuing until January 1, 2015, this prohibition does not apply to any mortgage modification or refinancing loan made in participation with and in compliance with the federal Homes Affordable Modification Program, a part of the federal Making Home Affordable program, or any other mortgage modification or refinancing loan funded through any other federal or state program or litigation settlement;

(9) Advise or recommend that the consumer not make timely payments on an existing loan preceding loan closure of a refinancing transaction; or

(10) Knowingly violate any provision of any other applicable state or federal law regulating primary or subordinate mortgage loans, including, without limitation, chapter forty-six-a of this code.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

______________________________
Chairman Senate Committee

______________________________
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect from passage.

______________________________
Clerk of the Senate

______________________________
Clerk of the House of Delegates

______________________________
President of the Senate

______________________________
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 2nd Day of April, 2012.

___________________________
Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 29 2012

Time 4:10 pm