



State of Rhode Island
Department of Business Regulation



Division of Banking and Securities
233 Richmond Street, Suite 231, Providence, RI 02903-4231
Telephone: (401) 222-2405, Facsimile: (401) 222-5628, TDD: 711
e-mail address: bankinquiry@dbr.state.ri.us

For Immediate Release

January 2, 2008

Rhode Island Joins Launch of New Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System

A. Michael Marques, Director of Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“Department”) today announced that the Division of Banking (“Division”) has joined six other state agencies in participating in the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) which began operations today.

“I am proud that the states are at the forefront of mortgage regulatory reform and that Rhode Island is taking a leadership role in this initiative,” said Marques. “NMLS represents a new era in supervision of the mortgage industry that will promote more stable markets and protect consumers,” he said.

The launch of NMLS is just one part of a multi-faceted plan being implemented by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators (AARMR), to improve regulation and bring about greater uniformity across state lines in mortgage supervision. These efforts include coordinated supervision, improved regulatory practices and consistent standards for testing and training for mortgage originators. To accomplish this, many states have changed or are in the process of changing their laws and regulations.

“Rhode Island’s participation in this multi-state effort is a testament to our commitment to improved supervision of the mortgage lending industry,” said Marques. In moving to NMLS, the Department has made changes to streamline and improve its licensing processes.

Through NMLS, mortgage companies and professionals will maintain a single record, electronically stored in a secure database accessible by licensees over the internet, that will provide consistent and comprehensive information to state regulators so they can better supervise the industry. Mortgage lenders, mortgage brokers and mortgage loan originators will have the convenience of maintaining a single record with which they can apply for, amend, update, renew or surrender licenses online in one or more states.

Seven states are participating at launch: Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York and Rhode Island. In addition, 42 state agencies representing mortgage regulators in 40 states so far have indicated their intent to transition onto the system.

The NMLS is part of a new regulatory framework that seeks:

- To enhance consumer protection;
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state supervision of the U.S. mortgage market;
- To fight mortgage fraud and predatory lending that costs consumers and the mortgage industry hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each year;
- To increase accountability among mortgage industry professionals; and
- To unify and streamline state license processes for mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers.

Information about gaining access to and setting up a record in the System can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.dbr.state.ri.us/>

The Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System may be found on the web at <http://www.stateregulatoryregistry.org/NMLS>

If you have any questions feel free to contact the *Division* at (401) 222-2405 or at bankinquiry@dbr.state.ri.us

* * * * *