



The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Room 24
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 1, 2013

RE: House Bill 187 Occupational Licensing Fees

Dear Representative Olson:

The Alaska Association of Realtors (AAR) has not had the opportunity to fully review House Bill 187 with our policy committee as the bill was just recently introduced. However, we very much appreciate the House Labor and Commerce Committee and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development addressing the problem of licensing fees.

HB 187 appears to address the assignment of investigation costs that have historically been allocated to individual boards. AAR believes that the enforcement action against all professional licensees is truly a public benefit. Further, it allows the leveling out of fees over time rather than raising and lowering them each licensing period dependent on the uneven nature of investigations and the occasional "outlier" that would cause dramatic swings in licensing fees.

The bill contains language encouraging greater collaboration between the various boards and the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. We as licensees of the Alaska Real Estate Commission (AREC) want to be sure that the AREC has the ability to perform both its regulatory and educational functions. We also want to be sure that the AREC has the ability to perform its fiduciary responsibility relative to the use of fees paid by its licensees.

We have not been able to engage in discussions with members of the AREC to gain their view of HB 187. We have had a meeting with the Division Director and appreciate the opportunity to begin to understand the intent of HB 187. It appears that the intent is positive and might well be helpful, yet we do need to fully review the language and its potential for unintended consequences.

While we reserve the right to continue to review HB 187 to assure that we fully understand all its ramifications, we believe that it is a positive step in addressing many important issues affecting licensees of the AREC. AAR would have no objection to the Labor and Commerce Committee moving this bill.

Sincerely,

Dave Somers
Chair, Industry Issues Committee

