1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to real estate appraisers; amending s. 3 475.451, F.S.; revising authorized methods of 4 instruction and certain requirements for specified 5 real estate practice courses; amending s. 475.611, 6 F.S.; defining and redefining terms; repealing s. 7 475.6175, F.S., relating to registered trainee 8 appraisers; amending s. 475.621, F.S.; requiring the 9 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to transmit a specified roster to an appraisal 10 11 subcommittee; requiring the department and the Florida 12 Real Estate Appraisal Board to collect an annual fee from certain appraisal management companies and 13 14 transmit such fee to the appraisal subcommittee; 15 requiring the board to adopt certain rules; amending 16 s. 475.6235, F.S.; deleting an exception to a 17 provision that deems a specified person unqualified for registration as an appraisal management company; 18 19 revising applicability; amending s. 475.6245, F.S.; authorizing the board to deny an appraisal management 20 21 company's registration renewal application; reenacting 22 s. 475.626(1)(b), F.S., relating to violations and 23 penalties, to incorporate the amendment made by the act to s. 475.6245, F.S., in a reference thereto; 24 25 reenacting s. 475.629, F.S., relating to retention of

Page 1 of 22

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records, to incorporate the amendment made by the act to s. 475.611, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

32 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 475.451, Florida33 Statutes, is amended to read:

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475.451 Schools teaching real estate practice.-

35 Any course prescribed by the commission as a condition (6) 36 precedent to a person any person's becoming initially licensed 37 as a sales associate or broker may be taught by a in any real 38 estate school in a classroom or via distance learning pursuant 39 to s. 475.17(2) through the use of a video tape of instruction by a currently permitted instructor from any such school or may 40 be taught by distance learning pursuant to s. 475.17(2). The 41 42 commission may require that any such video tape course have a 43 single session of live instruction by a currently permitted 44 instructor from any such school; however, this requirement shall 45 not exceed 3 classroom hours. All other prescribed courses, 46 except the continuing education course required by s. 475.182, shall be taught by a currently permitted school instructor 47 personally in attendance at such course or by distance learning 48 pursuant to s. 475.17. The continuing education course required 49 50 by s. 475.182 may be taught by distance learning pursuant to s.

Page 2 of 22

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51 475.17 or by an equivalent correspondence course; however, any 52 such correspondence course shall be required to have a final 53 examination, prepared and administered by the school <u>or course</u> 54 <u>provider</u> issuing the correspondence course. The continuing 55 education requirements provided in this chapter do not apply to 56 an attorney who is otherwise qualified under this chapter and 57 who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

58 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 475.611, 59 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

60

475.611 Definitions.-

61

(1) As used in this part, the term:

(a) "Appraisal" or "appraisal services" means the services
provided by certified or licensed appraisers or registered
trainee appraisers, and includes:

1. "Appraisal assignment" denotes an engagement for which a person is employed or retained to act, or could be perceived by third parties or the public as acting, as an agent or a disinterested third party in rendering an unbiased analysis, opinion, review, or conclusion relating to the nature, quality, value, or utility of specified interests in, or aspects of, identified real property.

72 2. "Analysis assignment" denotes appraisal services that 73 relate to the employer's or client's individual needs or 74 investment objectives and includes specialized marketing, 75 financing, and feasibility studies as well as analyses,

Page 3 of 22

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76 opinions, and conclusions given in connection with activities 77 such as real estate brokerage, mortgage banking, real estate 78 counseling, or real estate consulting.

3. "Appraisal review assignment" denotes an engagement for which an appraiser is employed or retained to develop and communicate an opinion about the quality of another appraiser's appraisal, appraisal report, or work. An appraisal review may or may not contain the reviewing appraiser's opinion of value.

(b) "Appraisal Foundation" or "foundation" means The
Appraisal Foundation established on November 20, 1987, as a notfor-profit corporation under the laws of Illinois.

(c) "Appraisal management company" means a person who performs appraisal management services regardless of the use of the term "appraisal management company," "appraiser cooperative," "appraiser portal," "mortgage technology company," or other term.

92 (d) "Appraisal management services" means the coordination93 or management of appraisal services for compensation by:

Employing, contracting with, or otherwise retaining one
 or more licensed or certified appraisers to perform appraisal
 services for a client; or

97 2. Acting as a broker or intermediary between a client and 98 one or more licensed or certified appraisers to facilitate the 99 client's employing, contracting with, or otherwise retaining the 100 appraisers.

Page 4 of 22

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"Appraisal report" means any communication, written or 101 (e) oral, of an appraisal, appraisal review, appraisal consulting 102 103 service, analysis, opinion, or conclusion relating to the 104 nature, quality, value, or utility of a specified interest in, 105 or aspect of, identified real property, and includes any report 106 communicating an appraisal analysis, opinion, or conclusion of 107 value, regardless of title. However, in order to be recognized 108 in a federally related transaction, an appraisal report must be 109 written.

(f) "Appraisal review" means the act or process of developing and communicating an opinion about the quality of another appraiser's appraisal, appraisal report, or work.

(g) "Appraisal subcommittee" means the designees of the heads of the federal financial institutions regulatory agencies established by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. ss. 3301 et seq.), as amended.

(h) "Appraiser" means any person who is a registered trainee real estate appraiser, a licensed real estate appraiser, or a certified real estate appraiser. An appraiser renders a professional service and is a professional within the meaning of s. 95.11(4)(a).

(i) "Appraiser panel" means a <u>network, list, or roster of</u>
 <u>licensed or certified appraisers approved by an appraisal</u>
 <u>management company to perform appraisals as independent</u>
 contractors for the appraisal management company. An appraiser

Page 5 of 22

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126 is an independent contractor for purposes of this paragraph if 127 the appraiser is treated as an independent contractor by the 128 appraisal management company for federal income tax purposes. 129 The term "appraiser panel" includes: 130 1. Appraisers accepted by the appraisal management company for consideration for future appraisal assignments in covered 131 132 transactions or secondary mortgage market participants in 133 connection with covered transactions. 134 2. Appraisers employed by, contracted with, or otherwise 135 retained by the appraisal management company to perform one or 136 more appraisals in covered transactions or for secondary 137 mortgage market participants in connection with covered 138 transactions group of appraisers selected by an appraisal 139 management company to perform appraisal services for clients on 140 behalf of the company. "Board" means the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board 141 (i) 142 established under this section. 143 (k) "Certified general appraiser" means a person who is 144 certified by the department as qualified to issue appraisal 145 reports for any type of real property. 146 "Certified residential appraiser" means a person who (1) is certified by the department as qualified to issue appraisal 147 reports for residential real property of one to four residential 148 units, without regard to transaction value or complexity, or 149 150 real property as may be authorized by federal regulation.

Page 6 of 22

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151 "Client" means a person who contracts with an (m) appraiser or appraisal management company for the performance of 152 153 appraisal services. 154 "Covered transaction" means a consumer credit (n) 155 transaction secured by the consumer's principal dwelling. 156 (o) (n) "Department" means the Department of Business and 157 Professional Regulation. (p) (o) "Direct supervision" means the degree of 158 supervision required of a supervisory appraiser overseeing the 159 work of a registered trainee appraiser by which the supervisory 160 161 appraiser has control over and detailed professional knowledge 162 of the work being done. Direct supervision is achieved when a registered trainee appraiser has regular direction, guidance, 163 164 and support from a supervisory appraiser who has the 165 competencies as determined by rule of the board. 166 (q) "Federally regulated appraisal management company" 167 means an appraisal management company that is owned and controlled by an insured depository institution, as defined in 168 169 12 U.S.C. s. 1813, and regulated by the Comptroller of the 170 Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 171 or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. 172 (r) (p) "Federally related transaction" means any real estate-related financial transaction which a federal financial 173 174 institutions regulatory agency or the Resolution Trust Corporation engages in, contracts for, or regulates, and which 175

Page 7 of 22

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176 requires the services of a state-licensed or state-certified 177 appraiser.

178 <u>(s) (q)</u> "Licensed appraiser" means a person who is licensed 179 by the department as qualified to issue appraisal reports for 180 residential real property of one to four residential units or on 181 such real estate or real property as may be authorized by 182 federal regulation. After July 1, 2003, the department shall not 183 issue licenses for the category of licensed appraiser.

184 (t) "Order file" means the documentation necessary to 185 support the performance of appraisal management services.

186 <u>(u) (r)</u> "Registered trainee appraiser" means a person who 187 is registered with the department as qualified to perform 188 appraisal services only under the direct supervision of a 189 certified appraiser. A registered trainee appraiser may accept 190 appraisal assignments only from her or his primary or secondary 191 supervisory appraiser.

(v) "Secondary mortgage market participant" means a
 guarantor, insurer, underwriter, or issuer of mortgage-backed
 securities. The term includes an individual investor in a
 mortgage-backed security only if such investor also serves in
 the capacity of a guarantor, an insurer, an underwriter, or an
 issuer for the mortgage-backed security.

198 <u>(w) (s)</u> "Signature" means personalized evidence indicating 199 authentication of work performed by an appraiser and the 200 acceptance of responsibility for the content of an appraisal,

Page 8 of 22

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201 appraisal review, or appraisal consulting service or conclusions 202 in an appraisal report.

203 <u>(x) (t)</u> "Subsidiary" means an organization that is owned 204 and controlled by a financial institution that is regulated by a 205 federal financial institution regulatory agency.

206 (y) (u) "Supervisory appraiser" means a certified 207 residential appraiser or a certified general appraiser 208 responsible for the direct supervision of one or more registered trainee appraisers and fully responsible for appraisals and 209 210 appraisal reports prepared by those registered trainee appraisers. The board, by rule, shall determine the 211 212 responsibilities of a supervisory appraiser, the geographic 213 proximity required, the minimum qualifications and standards 214 required of a certified appraiser before she or he may act in 215 the capacity of a supervisory appraiser, and the maximum number of registered trainee appraisers to be supervised by an 216 217 individual supervisory appraiser.

218 (z)(v) "Training" means the process of providing for and 219 making available to a registered trainee appraiser, under direct 220 supervision, a planned, prepared, and coordinated program, or 221 routine of instruction and education, in appraisal professional 222 and technical appraisal skills as determined by rule of the 223 board.

224 (aa) (w) "Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
 225 Practice" means the most recent standards approved and adopted

Page 9 of 22

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247

226 by the Appraisal Standards Board of The Appraisal Foundation.

227 (bb) (x) "Valuation services" means services pertaining to 228 aspects of property value and includes such services performed 229 by certified appraisers, registered trainee appraisers, and 230 others.

231 <u>(cc) (y)</u> "Work file" means the documentation necessary to 232 support an appraiser's analysis, opinions, and conclusions.

233 (2) Wherever the word "operate" or "operating" appears in 234 this part with respect to a registered trainee appraiser, 235 registered appraisal management company, licensed appraiser, or certified appraiser; in any order, rule, or regulation of the 236 237 board; in any pleading, indictment, or information under this 238 part; in any court action or proceeding; or in any order or 239 judgment of a court, it shall be deemed to mean the commission 240 of one or more acts described in this part as constituting or 241 defining a registered trainee appraiser, registered appraisal 242 management company, licensed appraiser, or certified appraiser, 243 not including, however, any of the exceptions stated therein. A 244 single act is sufficient to bring a person within the meaning of 245 this subsection, and each act, if prohibited herein, constitutes 246 a separate offense.

248 Section 3. <u>Section 475.6175, Florida Statutes, is</u>
249 <u>repealed.</u>
250 Section 4. Section 475.621, Florida Statutes, is amended

Page 10 of 22

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251 to read:

475.621 Registry of licensed and certified appraisers;
registry of appraisal management companies.-

(1) The department shall transmit to the appraisal
subcommittee, <u>at least</u> no less than annually, a roster listing
individuals who hold a valid state license or certification as
an appraiser. <u>The department shall transmit to the appraisal</u>
<u>subcommittee</u>, at least annually, a roster listing individuals or
<u>companies that hold a valid state registration as an appraisal</u>
management company.

261 The department shall collect from such individuals who (2)262 perform or seek to perform appraisals in federally related 263 transactions $\overline{\tau}$ an annual fee as set by rule of, and transmitted 264 to, the appraisal subcommittee. The department shall collect from such appraisal management companies that perform or seek to 265 266 perform appraisal management services in covered transactions an 267 annual fee set by rule of the board and transmitted to the 268 appraisal subcommittee.

269 (3) Notwithstanding the prohibition against requiring
 270 registration of a federally regulated appraisal management
 271 company as provided in s. 475.6235(8)(b), the board shall
 272 establish a procedure to collect from a federally regulated
 273 appraisal management company an annual fee as set by rule of the
 274 board and transmitted to the appraisal subcommittee.
 275 Section 5. Subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection

Page 11 of 22

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276 (8) of section 475.6235, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 277 475.6235 Registration of appraisal management companies 278 required; exemptions.-(5) 279 Each person listed in paragraph (2)(f) must be 280 competent and qualified to engage in appraisal management 281 services with safety to the general public and those with whom 282 the person may undertake a relationship of trust and confidence. 283 If any person listed in paragraph (2)(f) has been denied registration, licensure, or certification as an appraiser or has 284 285 been disbarred, or if the person's registration, license, or 286 certificate to practice or conduct any regulated profession, 287 business, or vocation has been revoked or suspended by this or 288 any other state, any nation, any possession or district of the 289 United States, or any court or lawful agency thereof because of 290 any conduct or practices that would have warranted a like result 291 under this part, or if the person has been guilty of conduct or 292 practices in this state or elsewhere that would have been grounds for disciplining her or his registration, license, or 293 294 certification under this part had the person then been a 295 registered trainee appraiser or a licensed or certified 296 appraiser, the person shall be deemed not to be qualified to be 297 registered unless, because of lapse of time and subsequent good 298 conduct and reputation, or other reason deemed sufficient, it 299 appears to the board that the interest of the public is not likely to be endangered by the granting of registration. 300

Page 12 of 22

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325

301 (8) This section does not apply to: 302 A federally regulated An appraisal management company (b) 303 that is a subsidiary owned and controlled by a financial 304 institution, as defined in s. 655.005, that is regulated by a 305 federal financial institution regulatory agency. 306 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 475.6245, Florida 307 Statutes, is amended to read: 308 475.6245 Discipline of appraisal management companies.-The board may deny an application for registration or 309 (1)310 renewal registration of an appraisal management company; may investigate the actions of any appraisal management company 311 312 registered under this part; may reprimand or impose an 313 administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each count or 314 separate offense against any such appraisal management company; 315 and may revoke or suspend, for a period not to exceed 10 years, 316 the registration of any such appraisal management company, or 317 place any such appraisal management company on probation, if the 318 board finds that the appraisal management company or any person 319 listed in s. 475.6235(2)(f): 320 Has violated any provision of this part or s. (a) 321 455.227(1); however, any appraisal management company registered

322 under this part is exempt from s. 455.227(1)(i).
323 (b) Has been guilty of fraud, misrepresentation,
324 concealment, false promises, false pretenses, dishonest conduct,

culpable negligence, or breach of trust in any business

Page 13 of 22

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2017

326 transaction in this state or any other state, nation, or 327 territory; has violated a duty imposed upon her or him by law or 328 by the terms of a contract, whether written, oral, express, or 329 implied, in an appraisal assignment; has aided, assisted, or 330 conspired with any other person engaged in any such misconduct 331 and in furtherance thereof; or has formed an intent, design, or 332 scheme to engage in such misconduct and committed an overt act 333 in furtherance of such intent, design, or scheme. It is 334 immaterial to the guilt of the appraisal management company that the victim or intended victim of the misconduct has sustained no 335 336 damage or loss; that the damage or loss has been settled and 337 paid after discovery of the misconduct; or that such victim or 338 intended victim was a customer or a person in confidential 339 relation with the appraisal management company or was an 340 identified member of the general public.

341 (c) Has advertised services in a manner that is342 fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content.

343 (d) Has violated any provision of this part or any lawful344 order or rule issued under this part or chapter 455.

(e) Has been convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction that directly relates to the activities of an appraisal management company or that involves moral turpitude or fraudulent or dishonest conduct. The record of a conviction certified or authenticated in such form as admissible in

Page 14 of 22

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351 evidence under the laws of the state shall be admissible as 352 prima facie evidence of such guilt.

353 (f) Has had a registration, license, or certification as 354 an appraiser or a registration as an appraisal management 355 company revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against; has been 356 disbarred; has had her or his registration, license, or 357 certificate to practice or conduct any regulated profession, 358 business, or vocation revoked or suspended by this or any other 359 state, any nation, or any possession or district of the United 360 States; or has had an application for such registration, 361 licensure, or certification to practice or conduct any regulated 362 profession, business, or vocation denied by this or any other 363 state, any nation, or any possession or district of the United 364 States.

(g) Has become temporarily incapacitated from acting as an appraisal management company with safety to those in a fiduciary relationship with her or him because of drunkenness, use of drugs, or temporary mental derangement; however, suspension of a registration in such cases shall only be for the period of such incapacity.

(h) Is confined in any county jail, postadjudication; is confined in any state or federal prison or mental institution; or, through mental disease or deterioration, can no longer safely be entrusted to deal with the public or in a confidential capacity.

Page 15 of 22

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(i) Has failed to inform the board in writing within 30
days after pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, or being
convicted or found guilty of, any felony.

(j) Has been found guilty, for a second time, of any misconduct that warrants disciplinary action, or has been found guilty of a course of conduct or practice that shows that she or he is incompetent, negligent, dishonest, or untruthful to an extent that those with whom she or he may sustain a confidential relationship may not safely do so.

385 (k) Has made or filed a report or record, either written 386 or oral, that the appraisal management company knows to be 387 false; has willfully failed to file a report or record required 388 by state or federal law; has willfully impeded or obstructed 389 such filing; or has induced another person to impede or obstruct 390 such filing. However, such reports or records shall include only 391 those that are signed or presented in the capacity of an 392 appraisal management company.

(1) Has obtained or attempted to obtain a registration, license, or certification by means of knowingly making a false statement, submitting false information, refusing to provide complete information in response to an application question, or engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment.

(m) Has paid money or other valuable consideration, except as required by this section, to any member or employee of the board to obtain a registration, license, or certification under

Page 16 of 22

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401 this section.

(n) Has instructed an appraiser to violate any standard of
professional practice established by rule of the board,
including standards for the development or communication of a
real estate appraisal or other provision of the Uniform
Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

407 (o) Has engaged in the development of an appraisal or the
408 preparation of an appraisal report, unless the appraisal
409 management company is owned or controlled by certified
410 appraisers.

(p) Has failed to communicate an appraisal without good cause.

(q) Has accepted an appraisal assignment if the employment itself is contingent upon the appraisal management company reporting a predetermined result, analysis, or opinion or if the fee to be paid for the performance of the appraisal assignment is contingent upon the opinion, conclusion, or valuation reached upon the consequences resulting from the appraisal assignment.

(r) Has failed to timely notify the department of any change in principal business location as an appraisal management company.

422 (s) Has influenced or attempted to influence the
423 development, reporting, or review of an appraisal through
424 coercion, extortion, collusion, compensation, inducement,
425 intimidation, bribery, or any other means, including, but not

Page 17 of 22

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426 limited to:

1. Withholding or threatening to withhold timely payment for an appraisal, unless such nonpayment is based upon specific quality or other service issues that constitute noncompliance with the appraisal engagement agreement.

431 2. Withholding or threatening to withhold future business432 from an appraiser.

3. Promising future business, promotions, or increased
compensation for an appraiser, whether the promise is express or
implied.

436 4. Conditioning a request for appraisal services or the
437 payment of an appraisal fee, salary, or bonus upon the opinion,
438 conclusion, or valuation to be reached or upon a preliminary
439 estimate or opinion requested from an appraiser.

5. Requesting that an appraiser provide an estimated,
predetermined, or desired valuation in an appraisal report or
provide estimated values or comparable sales at any time before
the appraiser's completion of appraisal services.

6. Providing to an appraiser an anticipated, estimated,
encouraged, or desired value for a subject property or a
proposed or target amount to be loaned to the borrower, except
that a copy of the sales contract for purchase transactions may
be provided.

449 7. Providing to an appraiser, or any person related to the450 appraiser, stock or other financial or nonfinancial benefits.

Page 18 of 22

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451 8. Allowing the removal of an appraiser from an appraiser452 panel without prior written notice to the appraiser.

453 9. Obtaining, using, or paying for a second or subsequent 454 appraisal or ordering an automated valuation model in connection 455 with a mortgage financing transaction unless there is a 456 reasonable basis to believe that the initial appraisal was 457 flawed or tainted and such basis is clearly and appropriately 458 noted in the loan file, or unless such appraisal or automated 459 valuation model is issued pursuant to a bona fide prefunding or postfunding appraisal review or quality control process. 460

461 10. Any other act or practice that impairs or attempts to 462 impair an appraiser's independence, objectivity, or 463 impartiality.

464 (t) Has altered, modified, or otherwise changed a
465 completed appraisal report submitted by an appraiser to an
466 appraisal management company.

467 (u) Has employed, contracted with, or otherwise retained
468 an appraiser whose registration, license, or certification is
469 suspended or revoked to perform appraisal services or appraisal
470 management services.

(v) Has required or attempted to require an appraiser to sign any indemnification agreement that would require the appraiser to hold harmless the appraisal management company or its owners, agents, employees, or independent contractors from any liability, damage, loss, or claim arising from the services

Page 19 of 22

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476 performed by the appraisal management company or its owners,
477 agents, employees, or independent contractors and not the
478 services performed by the appraiser.

479 Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment 480 made by this act to section 475.6245, Florida Statutes, in a 481 reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 482 475.626, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

483

475.626 Violations and penalties.-

484

(1) A person may not:

(b) If an appraisal management company, commit any conductor practice set forth in s. 475.6245.

487 Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment 488 made by this act to section 475.611, Florida Statutes, in a 489 reference thereto, section 475.629, Florida Statutes, is 490 reenacted to read:

491 475.629 Retention of records.-An appraiser registered, 492 licensed, or certified under this part shall prepare and retain 493 a work file for each appraisal, appraisal review, or appraisal 494 consulting assignment. An appraisal management company 495 registered under this part shall prepare and retain an order 496 file for each appraisal, appraisal review, or appraisal 497 consulting assignment. The work file and the order file shall be retained for 5 years or the period specified in the Uniform 498 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, whichever is 499 500 greater. The work file must contain original or true copies of

Page 20 of 22

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2017

501 any contracts engaging the appraiser's or appraisal management 502 company's services, appraisal reports, and supporting data 503 assembled and formulated by the appraiser or company in 504 preparing appraisal reports or engaging in appraisal management 505 services and all other data, information, and documentation 506 required by the standards for the development or communication 507 of a real estate appraisal as approved and adopted by the 508 Appraisal Standards Board of The Appraisal Foundation, as 509 established by rule of the board. The order file must contain original or true copies of any contracts engaging the 510 511 appraiser's services, the appraisal reports, any engagement 512 materials or instructions from the client, and all other 513 documents required by the standards for the development or 514 communication of a real estate appraisal as approved and adopted 515 by the Appraisal Standards Board of The Appraisal Foundation, as 516 established by rule of the board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 517 while general contracts and materials pertaining to impaneling 518 of an appraiser by an appraisal management company shall be 519 retained under this section, such contracts and materials are 520 not required to be maintained within the order file. Except as 521 otherwise specified in the Uniform Standards of Professional 522 Appraisal Practice, the period for retention of the records applicable to each engagement of the services of the appraiser 523 524 or appraisal management company runs from the date of the 525 submission of the appraisal report to the client. Appraisal

Page 21 of 22

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526 management companies shall also retain the company accounts, 527 correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records in 528 accordance with administrative rules adopted by the board. These 529 records must be made available by the appraiser or appraisal 530 management company for inspection and copying by the department 531 upon reasonable notice to the appraiser or company. If an appraisal has been the subject of or has served as evidence for 532 533 litigation, reports and records must be retained for at least 2 years after the trial or the period specified in the Uniform 534 535 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, whichever is 536 greater.

537

Section 9. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Page 22 of 22

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