STATE OF NEW YORK

5982

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 24, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the real property law, in relation to increasing certain course hours and periods of supervision for certain real estate license applications

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 1 of section 441 of the real property law, as amended by chapter 183 of the laws of 2006, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Such further information as the department may reasonably require shall be furnished by the applicant including sufficient proof of having taken and passed a written examination and answered such questions as may be prepared by the department to enable it to determine the trustworthiness of the applicant if an individual, or of each member of a co-partnership or each member of a limited liability company or each officer of a corporation for whom a license as a broker is asked, and his or their competency to transact the business of real estate broker in such a manner as to safeguard the interests of the public. In determining competency, the department shall require proof that the person being tested to qualify to apply for a broker's license has a fair knowledge of the English language, a fair understanding of the general purposes and general legal effect of deeds, mortgages, land contracts of sale, and leases, a general and fair understanding of the obligations between principal and agent, as well as of the provisions of this section. The applicant must also furnish proof that he has attended for at least one hundred [~~twenty~~] **fifty** hours and has successfully completed a real estate course or courses approved by the secretary of state as to method and content and supervision which approval may be withdrawn if in the opinion of the secretary of state said course or courses are not being conducted properly as to method, content and supervision, and that

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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either the applicant has actively participated in the general real estate brokerage business as a licensed real estate salesman under the supervision of a licensed real estate broker for a period of not less than [~~two~~] **five consecutive** years or has had the equivalent experience in general real estate business for a period of at least three years, the nature of which experience shall be established by affidavit duly sworn to under oath and/or other and further proof required by the department of state. Computer-based and distance-learning courses may be approved by the department so long as providers demonstrate the ability to monitor and verify participation by the applicant for the specified time period. Notwithstanding the foregoing authority to approve computer-based and distance-learning courses, the department may prescribe that specified subjects or hours must be presented in a classroom setting.

(c) In the event the applicant shall be a licensed salesman under this article and shall have submitted acceptable proof pursuant to the provisions of either paragraph (d) of subdivision one-A of this section or paragraph (a) of subdivision three of this section of having attended and successfully completed seventy-five hours of an approved real estate course or courses within eight years of the date of the application, the department may accept and credit same against the one hundred [~~twenty~~] **fifty** hours required hereunder.

§ 2. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 1-A of section 441 of the real property law, as amended by chapter 183 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, on and after the effective date of this paragraph, no salesman's license or conditional license shall be issued by the department unless the application therefor has been accompanied by proof that prior to such application the applicant has attended at least seventy-five hours**, which shall include at least six hours of instruction pertaining to fair housing and/or discrimination in the sale or rental of real property or an interest in real property,** and successfully completed a real estate course or courses approved by the secretary of state as to method and content and supervision, which approval may be withdrawn if in the opinion of the secretary of state said course or courses are not properly conducted as to method, content and supervision. Computer-based and distance-learning courses may be approved by the department so long as providers demonstrate the ability to monitor and verify participation by the applicant for the specified time period. Notwithstanding the foregoing authority to approve computer-based and distance-learning courses, the department may prescribe that specified subjects or hours must be presented in a classroom setting.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.