LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 684

Introduced by Christensen, 44.

Read first time January 08, 2014

Committee:

A BILL

1	FOR AN ACT relating to appraisal services; to amend sections 76-3201,
2	76-3202, 76-3203, 76-3204, 76-3206, 76-3208, 76-3213,
3	76-3215, 76-3216, 76-3217, and 76-3219, Revised Statutes
4	Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to change provisions
5	relating to the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company
6	Registration Act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal
7	the original sections.
8	Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 76-3201, Revised Statutes Cumulative

- 2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 3 76-3201 Sections 76-3201 to 76-3220 <u>and section 3 of this</u>
- 4 act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Appraisal
- 5 Management Company Registration Act.
- 6 Sec. 2. Section 76-3202, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 7 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 8 76-3202 For purposes of the Nebraska Appraisal Management
- 9 Company Registration Act:
- 10 (1) Appraisal has the same meaning as in section 76-2204;
- 11 (2) Appraisal Foundation has the same meaning as in
- 12 section 76-2205;
- 13 (3) Appraisal management company means, in connection
- 14 with valuing real property collateralizing mortgage loans, mortgages,
- or trust deeds incorporated into a securitization, any external third
- 16 party that oversees a network or panel of more than fifteen certified
- 17 or licensed appraisers in this state or twenty-five or more certified
- 18 or licensed appraisers nationally within a given year and that is
- 19 authorized: $\underline{\cdot}$, either by a creditor of a consumer credit transaction
- 20 secured by a consumer's principal dwelling or by an underwriter of or
- 21 other principal in the secondary mortgage markets:
- 22 (a) To recruit, select, and retain appraisers;
- 23 (b) To contract with certified or licensed appraisers to
- 24 perform real property appraisal activity; services;
- 25 (c) To manage the process of having an appraisal

1 performed, including providing administrative duties such as

- 2 receiving appraisal orders and appraisal—reports, submitting
- 3 completed appraisal reports to creditors and underwriters, appraisal
- 4 management company clients, collecting fees from creditors and
- 5 <u>underwriters appraisal management company clients</u> for appraisal
- 6 services provided, and reimbursing appraisers for appraisal services
- 7 performed; or
- 8 (d) To review and verify the work of appraisers;
- 9 (4) Appraisal management company client means the party
- 10 or parties who engage, by employment or contract, an appraisal
- 11 <u>management company in a specific third-party assignment;</u>
- 12 $\frac{(4)-(5)}{2}$ Appraisal practice has the same meaning as in
- 13 section 76-2205.01;
- 14 (5) Appraisal report has the same meaning as in section
- 15 76-2206;
- 16 (6) Appraisal review means the act or process of
- 17 developing and communicating an opinion about the quality of another
- 18 appraiser's work that was performed as part of a real property
- 19 appraisal activity, valuation or evaluation assignment, except that a
- 20 quality control examination of an appraisal a report shall not be an
- 21 appraisal review;
- 22 (7) Appraisal services means residential valuation <u>or</u>
- 23 <u>evaluation</u> assignments performed by an individual acting as an <u>a real</u>
- 24 property appraiser in connection with a third-party assignment,
- 25 including, but not limited to, appraisal, and appraisal review; , or

- 1 consulting services;
- 2 (8) Appraiser means an individual who holds a license or
- 3 certification as an a real property appraiser and is expected to
- 4 perform valuation and evaluation assignments competently and in a
- 5 manner that is independent, impartial, and objective;
- 6 (9) Appraiser panel means a group of licensed or
- 7 certified independent real property appraisers that have been
- 8 selected to perform appraisal services for a third party;
- 9 (10) Board means the Real Property Appraiser Board;
- 10 (11) Consulting service has the same meaning as in
- 11 section 76-2211.01;
- 12 $\frac{(12)-(11)}{(11)}$ Controlling person means:
- 13 (a) An officer or director of, or owner of greater than a
- 14 ten percent interest in, a corporation, partnership, or other
- 15 business entity seeking to act or acting as an appraisal management
- 16 company in this state;
- 17 (b) An individual employed, appointed, or authorized by
- 18 an appraisal management company that has the authority to enter into
- 19 a contractual relationship with other persons for the performance of
- 20 services requiring registration as an appraisal management company
- 21 and that has the authority to enter into agreements with appraisers
- 22 for the performance of appraisals; or
- 23 (c) An individual who possesses, directly or indirectly,
- 24 the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or
- 25 policies of an appraisal management company;

1 (12) Evaluation assignment has the same meaning as in

- 2 section 76-2212;
- 3 (13) Federal financial institution regulatory agency
- 4 means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the
- 5 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller
- 6 of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the National
- 7 Credit Union Administration, the Consumer Financial Protection
- 8 Bureau, or the successor of any of such agencies;
- 9 (14) Federally related transaction means any real estate-
- 10 related financial transaction which:
- 11 (a) A federal financial institution regulatory agency or
- 12 the Resolution Trust Corporation engages in, contracts for, or
- 13 regulates; and
- 14 (b) Requires the services of an appraiser;
- 15 (15) Owned and controlled means direct or indirect
- 16 ownership or control of more than twenty-five percent of the voting
- shares of an appraisal management company;
- 18 (16) Person means an individual, firm, partnership,
- 19 limited partnership, limited liability company, association,
- 20 corporation, or other group engaged in joint business activities,
- 21 however organized;
- 22 (17) Quality control examination means an examination of
- 23 <u>an appraisal a</u>report for compliance and completeness, including
- 24 grammatical, typographical, or other similar errors;
- 25 (18) Real estate has the same meaning as in section

- 1 76-2214;
- 2 (19) Real estate-related financial transaction means any
- 3 transaction involving:
- 4 (a) The sale, lease, purchase, investment in, or exchange
- 5 of real property, including interests in real property or the
- 6 financing thereof;
- 7 (b) The refinancing of real property or interests in real
- 8 property; or
- 9 (c) The use of real property or interests in real
- 10 property as security for a loan or investment, including mortgage-
- 11 backed securities;
- 12 (20) Real property has the same meaning as in section
- 13 76-2217;
- 14 (21) Real property appraisal activity has the same
- meaning as in section 76-2215;
- 16 (22) Real property appraiser has the same meaning as in
- 17 section 76-2216;
- 18 (22)—(23) Relocation management company means a business
- 19 entity in which the preponderance of its business services include
- 20 relocation of employees as an agent or contracted service provider to
- 21 the employer for the purposes of determining an anticipated sales
- 22 price for the residence of an employee being relocated by the
- 23 employer;
- 24 (24) Report has the same meaning as appraisal report as
- 25 <u>defined in section 76-2206;</u>

(25) Third-party assignment means (a) an agreement 1 2 between an appraisal management company and an appraisal management company client to provide appraisal services or (b) an appraisal 3 service that is provided as a consequence of such an agreement; 4 5 (23) (26) Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal 6 Practice has the same meaning as in section 76-2213.01; and 7 (24) (27) Valuation assignment has the same meaning as in 8 section 76-2219. 9 Sec. 3. (1) Except as provided in section 76-3204, it 10 shall be unlawful for any person to act as an appraisal management company in this state without first obtaining proper registration as 11 12 required under the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration 13 Act. 14 (2) Except as provided in section 76-3204, any person 15 who, directly or indirectly for another, with the intention or upon 16 the promise of receiving any form of compensation or consideration, 17 offers, attempts, or agrees to perform any act described in subdivision (3) of section 76-3202 shall be deemed an appraisal 18 management company, within the meaning of the act, and such action 19 20 shall constitute sufficient contact with the state for the exercise 21 of personal jurisdiction over such person in any action arising out 22 of such action. Committing a single act described in such subdivision by a person required to be registered under the act and not so 23 registered shall constitute a violation of the act for which the 24 board may impose sanctions pursuant to this section for the 25

- 1 protection of the public health, safety, or welfare.
- 2 (3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
- 3 board may issue a cease and desist order against any person who
- 4 violates this section by performing any action described in
- 5 subdivision (3) of section 76-3202 without the appropriate
- 6 registration. Such order shall be final ten days after issuance
- 7 unless the violator requests a hearing pursuant to section 76-3217.
- 8 Sec. 4. Section 76-3203, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 9 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 10 76-3203 (1) It is unlawful for a person to directly or
- 11 indirectly engage in or attempt to engage in business as an appraisal
- 12 management company or to advertise or hold itself out as engaging in
- 13 or conducting business as an appraisal management company in this
- 14 state without first obtaining a registration issued by the board.
- 15 (2) (1) An application for the registration required by
- 16 subsection (1) of this section—shall include the following
- 17 information:
- 18 (a) The name of the person seeking registration and any
- 19 other name or names, if any, under which it will do business in this
- 20 state;
- 21 (b) The business address of the person seeking
- 22 registration;
- 23 (c) The telephone contact information of the person
- 24 seeking registration;
- 25 (d) If the person seeking registration is not a

1 corporation that is domiciled in this state, the name and contact

- 2 information for the person's agent for service of process in this
- 3 state;
- 4 (e) The name, address, and contact information for any
- 5 person that owns ten percent or more of the person seeking
- 6 registration;
- 7 (f) The name, address, and contact information for one
- 8 controlling person designated as the main contact for all
- 9 communication between the person seeking registration and the board;
- 10 (g) A certification that the person seeking registration
- 11 has a system and process in place to verify that an appraiser
- 12 selected to the appraiser panel of the person seeking registration
- 13 holds a license or certification in good standing in this state
- 14 pursuant to the Real Property Appraiser Act;
- 15 (h) A certification that the person seeking registration
- 16 requires appraisers completing appraisal services at the person's
- 17 request to comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional
- 18 Appraisal Practice, including the requirements for geographic and
- 19 product competence;
- 20 (i) A certification that the person seeking registration
- 21 has a system in place to verify that only licensed or certified
- 22 appraisers are used for federally related transactions;
- 23 (j) A certification that the person seeking registration
- 24 has a system in place to require that appraisals are conducted
- 25 independently and free from inappropriate influence and coercion as

1 required by the appraisal independence standards established under

- 2 section 129E of the federal Truth in Lending Act, as amended,
- 3 including the requirements for payment of a reasonable and customary
- 4 fee to appraisers when the appraisal management company is providing
- 5 appraisal services for a consumer credit transaction secured by the
- 6 principal dwelling of a consumer;
- 7 (k) A certification that the person seeking registration
- 8 maintains a detailed record of each request for appraisal services
- 9 that it receives and the appraiser that performs the residential real
- 10 estate appraisal services for the appraisal management company;
- 11 (1) If the person seeking registration is a nonresident,
- 12 an irrevocable consent for service of process, if required pursuant
- 13 to section 76-3205; and
- 14 (m) Any other information required by the board which is
- 15 reasonably necessary to implement, administer, and enforce the
- 16 Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act.
- 17 $\frac{(3)}{(2)}$ An applicant for registration as an appraisal
- 18 management company in this state shall submit to the board an
- 19 application on a form or forms prescribed by the board. The
- 20 application shall be valid for one year from the date received at the
- 21 board's office.
- 22 (4) (3) An applicant for registration as an appraisal
- 23 management company in this state shall furnish to the board, at the
- 24 time of making application, a surety bond in the amount of twenty-
- 25 five thousand dollars. The surety bond required under this subsection

1 shall be issued by a bonding company or insurance company authorized

- 2 to do business in this state, and a copy of the bond shall be filed
- 3 with the board. The bond shall be in favor of the state for the
- 4 benefit of any person who is damaged by any violation of the Nebraska
- 5 Appraisal Management Company Registration Act. The bond shall also be
- 6 in favor of any person damaged by such a violation. Any person
- 7 claiming against the bond for a violation of the act may maintain an
- 8 action at law against the appraisal management company and against
- 9 the surety. The aggregate liability of the surety to all persons
- 10 damaged by a violation of the act by an appraisal management company
- 11 shall not exceed the amount of the bond. The bond shall be maintained
- 12 until one year after the date that the appraisal management company
- 13 ceases operation in this state.
- 14 (5) (4) A registration issued pursuant to the Nebraska
- 15 Appraisal Management Company Registration Act shall be valid for two
- 16 years after the date on which it is issued. An application for the
- 17 renewal of a registration shall include substantially similar
- 18 information required for the initial registration as provided in
- 19 subsection $\frac{(2)}{(1)}$ of this section.
- 20 Sec. 5. Section 76-3204, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 21 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 22 76-3204 The Nebraska Appraisal Management Company
- 23 Registration Act does not apply to:
- 24 (1) A person that exclusively employs persons for the
- 25 performance of appraisal services. The employer is responsible for

1 ensuring that the appraisal services are performed by employees in

- 2 accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
- 3 Practice;
- 4 (2) An appraisal management company that is owned and
- 5 controlled by a financial institution regulated by a federal
- 6 financial institution regulatory agency;
- 7 (3) An appraiser that enters into an agreement, written
- 8 or oral, with an appraiser for the performance of appraisal services
- 9 if upon the completion of the appraisal services the appraisal report
- 10 is signed by both the appraiser who completed the appraisal services
- 11 and the appraiser who requested the appraisal services; or
- 12 (4) A relocation management company.
- 13 Sec. 6. Section 76-3206, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 14 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 15 76-3206 The board shall charge and collect fees for its
- 16 services under the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration
- 17 Act as follows:
- 18 (1) An application fee of no more than three hundred
- 19 fifty dollars;
- 20 (2) an—An initial registration fee of no more than two
- 21 thousand dollars;
- 22 (3) a A renewal registration fee of no more than one
- 23 thousand five hundred dollars; and
- 24 (4) a—A late renewal fee of twenty-five dollars for each
- 25 month or portion of a month the fee is late; and -

1 (5) In addition to the fees set forth in this section,

- 2 the board may establish and collect such fees as it deems appropriate
- 3 for special examinations and other services provided by the board.
- 4 All fees and other revenue collected pursuant to the Nebraska
- 5 Appraisal Management Company Registration Act shall be remitted by
- 6 the board to the State Treasurer for credit to the Appraisal
- 7 <u>Management Company Fund.</u>
- 8 Sec. 7. Section 76-3208, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 9 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 10 76-3208 An appraisal management company <u>or any person</u>
- 11 that applies to the board for a registration to do business in this
- 12 state as an appraisal management company shall not:
- 13 (1) Knowingly employ any individual to perform appraisal
- 14 services who has had a license or certificate credential to act as an
- 15 appraiser in this state or in any other state refused, denied,
- 16 canceled, surrendered in lieu of revocation, or revoked within a ten-
- 17 year period immediately preceding application for employment;
- 18 (2) Knowingly enter into any independent contractor
- 19 arrangement to perform appraisal services, whether in verbal,
- 20 written, or other form, with any individual who has had a license or
- 21 <u>certificate_credential</u> to act as an appraiser in this state or in any
- 22 other state refused, denied, canceled, surrendered in lieu of
- 23 revocation, or revoked within a ten-year period immediately preceding
- 24 <u>arrangement for contract; or</u>
- 25 (3) Knowingly prohibit an appraiser from including within

1 the body of an appraisal a report that is submitted by the appraiser

- 2 to the appraisal management company or its assignee the fee that the
- 3 appraiser was paid by the appraisal management company for the
- 4 performance of the appraisal report; or -
- 5 (4) Require a real property appraiser to indemnify an
- 6 appraisal management company or hold an appraisal management company
- 7 <u>harmless for any liability, damage, loss, or claim arising out of the</u>
- 8 services provided by the appraisal management company.
- 9 Sec. 8. Section 76-3213, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 10 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 11 76-3213 An appraisal management company may not alter,
- 12 modify, or otherwise change a completed appraisal report submitted by
- 13 an appraiser without the appraiser's written consent.
- Sec. 9. Section 76-3215, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 15 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 16 76-3215 (1) Each appraisal management company registered
- 17 in this state, except in cases of noncompliance with the conditions
- 18 of the engagement, shall make payment of fees to an appraiser for the
- 19 completion of an appraisal or valuation assignment within sixty days
- 20 after the date on which the appraiser transmits or otherwise provides
- 21 the completed appraisal—report or valuation assignment to the
- 22 appraisal management company or its assignee.
- 23 (2) Except within the first ninety days after an
- 24 appraiser is first added to the appraiser panel of an appraisal
- 25 management company, an appraisal management company may not remove

1 the appraiser from the appraiser panel of the appraisal management

- 2 company or otherwise refuse to assign requests for appraisal services
- 3 to an appraiser on the appraiser panel without:
- 4 (a) Notifying the appraiser in writing of the reasons why
- 5 the appraiser is being removed from the appraiser panel of the
- 6 appraisal management company; and
- 7 (b) Providing an opportunity for the appraiser to respond
- 8 to the notification from the appraisal management company.
- 9 (3) An appraiser who is removed from the appraiser panel
- 10 of an appraisal management company may file a complaint with the
- 11 board for a review of the decision of the appraisal management
- 12 company. The scope of the board's review in any such case is limited
- 13 to determining that the appraisal management company has complied
- 14 with subsection (2) of this section and whether a violation of the
- 15 Real Property Appraiser Act has occurred.
- 16 (4) If an appraiser files a complaint against an
- 17 appraisal management company pursuant to subsection (3) of this
- 18 section, the board shall adjudicate the complaint within one hundred
- 19 eighty days after the filing of the complaint.
- 20 (5) If, after opportunity for hearing and review, the
- 21 board determines that an appraisal management company acted
- 22 improperly in removing the appraiser from the appraiser panel, the
- 23 board shall:
- 24 (a) Provide written findings to the involved parties;
- (b) Provide an opportunity for the appraisal management

1 company and the appraiser to respond to the findings; and

- 2 (c) Make recommendations for action.
- 3 Sec. 10. Section 76-3216, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 4 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 5 76-3216 (1) The board may, upon its own motion, and
- 6 shall, upon the written complaint of any aggrieved person, cause an
- 7 investigation to be made with respect to any alleged violation of the
- 8 Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act. Upon receipt
- 9 of information indicating that a person may have violated the act,
- 10 the board shall make an investigation of the facts to determine
- 11 whether or not there is evidence of a violation. If technical
- 12 <u>assistance is required, the board may contract with or use qualified</u>
- 13 individuals or companies.
- 14 (2) If an investigation indicates that a person may have
- 15 violated a provision of the act, the board may offer the person an
- 16 opportunity to voluntarily and informally discuss the alleged
- 17 violation before the board. If an investigation indicates that a
- 18 nonregistered person has violated the act, the board may issue a
- 19 cease and desist order. The board may enter into consent agreements
- 20 or negotiate settlements with appraisal management companies and
- 21 applicants. If an investigation indicates that an appraisal
- 22 management company has violated the act, a formal complaint shall be
- 23 prepared by the board and served upon the appraisal management
- 24 company. The complaint shall require the appraisal management company
- 25 to file an answer within thirty days after the date of service. In

responding to a complaint, the appraisal management company may admit 1 2 the allegations of the complaint, deny the allegations of the complaint, or plead otherwise. Failure to make a timely response 3 shall be deemed an admission of the allegations of the complaint. 4 5 Upon receipt of an answer to the complaint, the director or 6 chairperson of the board shall set a date, time, and place for an 7 administrative hearing on the complaint. The date of the hearing 8 shall not be less than thirty nor more than one hundred twenty days from the date that the answer is filed unless such date is extended 9 for good cause. Notice of the date, time, and place of the 10 administrative hearing shall be satisfied by personal service on the 11 12 controlling person of the company or agent for service of process in 13 this state or by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the controlling person of the company 14 15 that is on file with the board. 16 $\frac{(1)-(3)}{(3)}$ To the extent permitted by any applicable federal legislation or regulation, the board may censure an appraisal 17 management company, conditionally or unconditionally suspend or 18 19 revoke the registration issued to the appraisal management company 20 under the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act, 21 deny any application, issue a cease and desist order, or levy fines or impose civil penalties not to exceed five thousand dollars for a 22 23 first offense and not to exceed ten thousand dollars for a second or subsequent offense, if the board determines that an appraisal 24 management company is attempting to perform, has performed, or has 25

1 attempted to perform any of the following:

- 2 (a) A material violation of the act;
- 3 (b) A violation of any rule or regulation adopted and
- 4 promulgated by the board; or
- 5 (c) Procurement of a registration for itself or any other
- 6 person by fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit; -
- 7 <u>(d) Failure to demonstrate character and general fitness</u>
- 8 such as to command the confidence and trust of the public by an
- 9 individual owning ten percent or more of an appraisal management
- 10 company or an individual acting as a controlling person for an
- 11 appraisal management company;
- 12 <u>(e) Entry of a final civil or criminal judgment against</u>
- an appraisal management company, including dismissal with settlement,
- on grounds of fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, money laundering,
- 15 misrepresentation, or deceit involving real estate, financial
- 16 <u>services</u>, or in the making of an appraisal;
- 17 <u>(f) Conviction, including a conviction based upon a plea</u>
- 18 of guilty or nolo contendere, of a crime which is related to the
- 19 qualifications, functions, or duties of an appraisal management
- 20 company, by an individual owning ten percent or more of an appraisal
- 21 management company or an individual acting as a controlling person
- 22 for an appraisal management company;
- 23 (g) Knowingly making false or misleading statements, both
- 24 written and verbal, to a real property appraiser concerning a third-
- 25 <u>party assignment or fee;</u>

1 (h) Suspension or revocation of a registration in any 2 other jurisdiction; 3 (i) Failure to renew, or surrender of a registration in 4 any other jurisdiction in lieu of disciplinary action pending or 5 threatened; 6 (j) Failure to report disciplinary action taken against a 7 registration in any other jurisdiction within sixty days after such 8 action; 9 (k) Failure to comply with terms of a consent agreement 10 or settlement agreement; 11 (1) Failure to submit or produce books, records, 12 documents, work files, appraisal reports, or other materials 13 requested by the board concerning any matter under investigation; or 14 (m) Engaging in business as an appraisal management 15 company under a legal or trade name not on file with the board. 16 $\frac{(2)-(4)}{(2)}$ In order to promote voluntary compliance, encourage appraisal management companies to correct errors promptly, 17 18 and ensure a fair and consistent approach to enforcement, the board 19 shall endeavor to impose fines or civil penalties that are reasonable 20 in light of the nature, extent, and severity of the violation. The 21 board shall also take action against an appraisal management 22 company's registration only after less severe sanctions have proven 23 insufficient to ensure behavior consistent with the Nebraska 24 Appraisal Management Company Registration Act. When deciding whether

to impose a sanction permitted by subsection $\frac{(1)}{(3)}$ of this section,

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1 determining the sanction that is most appropriate in a specific

- 2 instance, or making any other discretionary decision regarding the
- 3 enforcement of the act, the board shall consider whether an appraisal
- 4 management company:
- 5 (a) Has an effective program reasonably designed to
- 6 ensure compliance with the act;
- 7 (b) Has taken prompt and appropriate steps to correct and
- 8 prevent the recurrence of any detected violations; and
- 9 (c) Has independently reported to the board any
- 10 significant violations or potential violations of the act prior to an
- 11 imminent threat of disclosure or investigation and within a
- 12 reasonably prompt time after becoming aware of the occurrence of such
- 13 violations.
- 14 Sec. 11. Section 76-3217, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 15 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 16 76-3217 (1) The administrative hearing on the allegations
- 17 in the complaint filed pursuant to section 76-3216 shall be heard by
- 18 a hearing officer at the time and place prescribed by the board and
- 19 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If, at the
- 20 <u>conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer determines that the</u>
- 21 appraisal management company is guilty of the violation, the board
- 22 shall take such disciplinary action as the board deems appropriate.
- 23 Disciplinary actions which may be taken shall include, but not be
- 24 limited to, revocation, suspension, probation, admonishment, letter
- of reprimand, and formal censure, with publication, of the appraisal

1 management company. Costs incurred for an administrative hearing,

- 2 including, but not limited to, fees of counsel, the hearing officer,
- 3 court reporters, investigators, and witnesses, shall be taxed as
- 4 costs in such action as the board may direct.
- 5 (2) The decision and order of the board shall be final.
- 6 Any decision or order of the board may be appealed. The appeal shall
- 7 be on questions of law only and otherwise shall be in accordance with
- 8 the Administrative Procedure Act.
- 9 (1) The board shall conduct disciplinary hearings for any
- 10 violation of the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration
- 11 Act in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- 12 (2) Before the board may censure, suspend, or revoke the
- 13 registration of, or levy a fine or civil penalty against, a
- 14 registered appraisal management company, the board shall notify the
- 15 company in writing of any charges made under the Nebraska Appraisal
- 16 Management Company Registration Act at least twenty days prior to the
- 17 date set for the hearing and shall permit the appraisal management
- 18 company an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. The
- 19 notice shall be satisfied by personal service on the controlling
- 20 person of the company or agent for service of process in this state
- 21 or by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested,
- 22 to the address of the controlling person of the company that is on
- 23 file with the board.
- 24 (3) Any hearing pursuant to this section shall be heard
- 25 by a hearing officer at a time and place prescribed by the board. The

1 hearing officer may make findings of fact and shall deliver such

- 2 findings to the board. The board shall take such disciplinary action
- 3 as it deems appropriate, subject to the limitations contained within
- 4 section 76-3216.
- 5 Sec. 12. Section 76-3219, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 6 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:
- 7 76-3219 The board shall collect all fees and other
- 8 revenue pursuant to the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company
- 9 Registration Act and shall remit such fees and revenue to the State
- 10 Treasurer for credit to the Appraisal Management Company Fund, which
- 11 is hereby created. The fund shall be used to implement, administer,
- 12 and enforce the act and to meet the necessary expenditures of the
- 13 board. The fund shall include a sufficient cash fund balance as
- 14 determined by the board. The expense of administering and enforcing
- 15 the act shall not exceed the money collected by the board under the
- 16 act. Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the
- 17 direction of the Legislature. Any transfer to the General Fund shall
- 18 not exceed an amount that decreases the fund to an amount equal to or
- 19 below the sufficient cash fund balance as determined by the board.
- 20 Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by
- 21 the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
- 22 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.
- 23 Sec. 13. Original sections 76-3201, 76-3202, 76-3203,
- 24 76-3204, 76-3206, 76-3208, 76-3213, 76-3215, 76-3216, 76-3217, and
- 25 76-3219, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, are repealed.