

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT

The Arkansas Real Estate Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016, in the Meeting Room of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission building, 612 South Summit Street, Little Rock, Arkansas for the purpose of receiving public or written comment on the adoption of proposed amendments to existing regulations pertaining to the requirements for annual Continuing Education courses for real estate licensees in the state of Arkansas. Subjects and issues involved are as follows:

The current annual continuing education requirement for real estate licensees is six (6) classroom hours. This amendment will add one (1) classroom hour on personal safety, increasing the total annual requirement to seven (7) classroom hours. The intent is to help ensure that licensees and consumers have a safer real estate market in which to transact business.

The second change will allow the Real Estate Commission to address two issues that were brought to our attention through town hall styled meetings with brokers in various sections of the state. Brokers in south Arkansas expressed that access to quality education was limited because of the low number of real estate licensees in their area. The other issue raised was the lack of variety in subject matter of the courses offered by instructors, despite the fact that a large number of topics qualify for continuing education. Real estate schools and educators will be encouraged and provided the opportunity to address these weaknesses. However, in the event these needs are not met, this amendment will allow the Real Estate Commission to offer education in those underserved areas to hopefully improve the licensees' educational experience and make their time spent on education more worthwhile.

Copies of the proposed regulation may be obtained by writing the Arkansas Real Estate Commission at 612 South Summit Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4740. Written data used for arguments to proposed regulation changes should be submitted to the above address at or prior to the time of the Public Hearing. The Commission may also permit oral testimony or argument at the Public Hearing.