



## Department of Banking and Finance

Sonny Perdue  
Governor

Robert M. Braswell  
Commissioner

### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Georgia Department of Banking and Finance Announces Commitment To Participate In CSBS/AARMR Mortgage Licensing System

Rob Braswell, Georgia Department of Banking and Finance Commissioner, today indicated that the Department plans to participate in the Residential Mortgage Licensing System now under development by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators (AARMR).

To date, 28 states have indicated their intent to participate in the nationwide Residential Mortgage Licensing System by the end of 2009.

Commissioner Braswell stated, "This system, when up and running, will accomplish something that is unprecedented in the mortgage industry. Georgia plays a critical role in regulating a significant segment of the lending industry, and our participation in the system will accrue significant benefits to mortgage practitioners and the consumers of our state."

Commissioner Braswell commented further on the reasons for participation in the system:

- To enhance the consistency of state supervision of the U.S. mortgage market;
- To fight mortgage fraud and predatory lending that costs consumers and the mortgage industry hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each year;
- To unify and streamline state licensing processes for mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers.

"We are proud to announce this initial phase of participating states who are taking a leadership role in creating a unified and modern system of state mortgage supervision," stated Neil Milner, CSBS president and CEO. "By announcing their intent to participate, these state agencies are taking a leadership role in this initiative."

"The importance of this initiative is underscored by the number of state agencies indicating their intent to come on the System during the initial development phase," commented George Kinsel, President, AARMR. "These states are creating the critical mass necessary for state supervision of the mortgage industry to become more uniform, more efficient, and more effective."

The System will be used by state residential mortgage regulators to accept and process national, uniform license applications and renewal forms that have been created by state regulators over the past two years. Licensees will be able to electronically manage a single record in the System to apply for, amend, renew, and surrender licenses in one or more regulated jurisdictions. The System will manage state licenses for mortgage companies, branches, and individuals. The System is scheduled to go operational in January 2008.

State agencies announcing their commitment to the System include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions, Indiana Secretary of State, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

It is expected that state agencies will transition onto the System during the 2008 and 2009 time period as full functionality for the System's initial release is implemented. Although the system is scheduled to go operational in January 2008, Georgia will not go on-line before 2009. Additional states have expressed interest in participating in the System, but are still determining the timeframe of their participation.

More information about the CSBS/AARMR Residential Mortgage Licensing System may be found on the web at [www.csbs.org](http://www.csbs.org).

The Department has regulatory and/or licensing authority over state-chartered banks, credit unions, trust companies, mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, mortgage processors, check cashers, sale of check companies, money transmitters, international banking organizations and bank holding companies conducting business in the state of Georgia. The Department currently supervises approximately 289 banks and 67 credit unions with assets over \$250 billion. The Department also licenses over 3,200 mortgage lenders, brokers and processors and over 800 check cashers, sale of check companies and money transmitters.

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