

HOUSE BILL NO. 256
INTRODUCED BY B. LAKE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING REAL ESTATE LAWS TO PROVIDE REGULATION OF TENANCIES IN COMMON; REVISING DEFINITIONS IN THE SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE, AND TIMESHARE LAWS; AMENDING SECTIONS 30-10-103, 37-51-102, AND 37-53-102, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 30-10-103, MCA, is amended to read:

"30-10-103. Definitions. When used in parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Broker-dealer" means any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others or for the person's own account.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a salesperson, issuer, bank, savings institution, trust company, or insurance company; or

(ii) a person who does not have a place of business in this state if the person effects transactions in this state exclusively with or through the issuers of the securities involved in the transactions, other broker-dealers, or banks, savings institutions, trust companies, insurance companies, investment companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, pension or profit-sharing trusts, or other financial institutions or institutional buyers, whether acting for themselves or as trustee.

(2) "Commissioner" means the securities commissioner of this state, as provided for in 2-15-1901.

(3) (a) "Commodity" means:

(i) any agricultural, grain, or livestock product or byproduct;

(ii) any metal or mineral, including a precious metal, or any gem or gem stone, whether characterized as precious, semiprecious, or otherwise;

(iii) any fuel, whether liquid, gaseous, or otherwise;

(iv) foreign currency; and

(v) all other goods, articles, products, or items of any kind.

(b) Commodity does not include:

(i) a numismatic coin with a fair market value at least 15% higher than the value of the metal it contains;

(ii) real property or any timber, agricultural, or livestock product grown or raised on real property and offered and sold by the owner or lessee of the real property; or

(iii) any work of art offered or sold by an art dealer at public auction or offered or sold through a private sale by the owner.

(4) "Commodity Exchange Act" means the federal statute of that name.

(5) "Commodity futures trading commission" means the independent regulatory agency established by congress to administer the Commodity Exchange Act.

(6) (a) "Commodity investment contract" means any account, agreement, or contract for the purchase or sale, primarily for speculation or investment purposes and not for use or consumption by the offeree or purchaser, of one or more commodities, whether for immediate or subsequent delivery or whether delivery is intended by the parties and whether characterized as a cash contract, deferred shipment or deferred delivery contract, forward contract, futures contract, installment or margin contract, leverage contract, or otherwise. Any commodity investment contract offered or sold, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is presumed to be offered or sold for speculation or investment purposes.

(b) A commodity investment contract does not include a contract or agreement that requires, and under which the purchaser receives, within 28 calendar days after the payment in good funds of any portion of the purchase price, physical delivery of the total amount of each commodity to be purchased under the contract or agreement. The purchaser is not considered to have received physical delivery of the total amount of each commodity to be purchased under the contract or agreement when the commodity or commodities are held as collateral for a loan or are subject to a lien of any person when the loan or lien arises in connection with the purchase of each commodity or commodities.

(7) (a) "Commodity option" means any account, agreement, or contract giving a party to the account, agreement, or contract the right but not the obligation to purchase or sell one or more commodities or one or more commodity contracts, whether characterized as an option, privilege, indemnity, bid, offer, put, call, advance guaranty, decline guaranty, or otherwise.

(b) The term does not include an option traded on a national securities exchange registered with the U.S. securities and exchange commission.

(8) (a) "Federal covered adviser" means a person who is registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(b) The term does not include a person who would be exempt from the definition of investment adviser

pursuant to subsection (11)(c)(i), (11)(c)(ii), (11)(c)(iii), (11)(c)(iv), (11)(c)(v), (11)(c)(vi), (11)(c)(vii), or (11)(c)(ix).

(9) "Federal covered security" means a security that is a covered security under section 18(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 or rules promulgated by the commissioner.

(10) "Guaranteed" means guaranteed as to payment of principal, interest, or dividends.

(11) (a) "Investment adviser" means a person who, for compensation, engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities or who, for compensation and as a part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning securities.

(b) The term includes a financial planner or other person who:

(i) as an integral component of other financially related services, provides the investment advisory services described in subsection (11)(a) to others for compensation, as part of a business; or

(ii) represents to any person that the financial planner or other person provides the investment advisory services described in subsection (11)(a) to others for compensation.

(c) Investment adviser does not include:

(i) an investment adviser representative;

(ii) a bank, savings institution, trust company, or insurance company;

(iii) a lawyer or accountant whose performance of these services is solely incidental to the practice of the person's profession or who does not accept or receive, directly or indirectly, any commission, payment, referral, or other remuneration as a result of the purchase or sale of securities by a client, does not recommend the purchase or sale of specific securities, and does not have custody of client funds or securities for investment purposes;

(iv) a registered broker-dealer whose performance of services described in subsection (11)(a) is solely incidental to the conduct of business and for which the broker-dealer does not receive special compensation;

(v) a publisher of any newspaper, news column, newsletter, news magazine, or business or financial publication or service, whether communicated in hard copy form or by electronic means or otherwise, that does not consist of the rendering of advice on the basis of the specific investment situation of each client;

(vi) a person whose advice, analyses, or reports relate only to securities exempted by 30-10-104(1);

(vii) an engineer or teacher whose performance of the services described in subsection (11)(a) is solely incidental to the practice of the person's profession;

(viii) a federal covered adviser; or

(ix) other persons not within the intent of this subsection (11) as the commissioner may by rule or order

designate.

(12) (a) "Investment adviser representative" means:

(i) any partner of, officer of, director of, or a person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions, or other individual, except clerical or ministerial personnel, employed by or associated with an investment adviser who:

(A) makes any recommendation or otherwise renders advice regarding securities to clients;

(B) manages accounts or portfolios of clients;

(C) solicits, offers, or negotiates for the sale or sells investment advisory services; or

(D) supervises employees who perform any of the foregoing; and

(ii) with respect to a federal covered adviser, any person who is an investment adviser representative with a place of business in this state as those terms are defined by the securities and exchange commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(b) The term does not include a salesperson registered pursuant to 30-10-201(1) whose performance of the services described in subsection (12)(a) is solely incidental to the conduct of business as a salesperson and for which the salesperson does not receive special compensation other than fees relating to the solicitation or offering of investment advisory services of a registered investment adviser or of a federal covered adviser who has made a notice filing under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter.

(13) "Issuer" means any person who issues or proposes to issue any security, except that with respect to certificates of deposit, voting-trust certificates, or collateral-trust certificates or with respect to certificates of interest or shares in an unincorporated investment trust not having a board of directors, or persons performing similar functions, or of the fixed, restricted management, or unit type, the term "issuer" means the person or persons performing the acts and assuming the duties of depositor or manager pursuant to the provisions of the trust or other agreement or instrument under which the security is issued.

(14) "Nonissuer" means not directly or indirectly for the benefit of the issuer.

(15) "Offer" or "offer to sell" includes each attempt or offer to dispose of or solicitation of an offer to buy a security or interest in a security for value.

(16) "Person", for the purpose of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, means an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a joint-stock company, a trust in which the interests of the beneficiaries are evidenced by a security, an unincorporated organization, a government, or a political subdivision of a government.

(17) "Precious metal" means the following, in coin, bullion, or other form:

(a) silver;

- (b) gold;
- (c) platinum;
- (d) palladium;
- (e) copper; and
- (f) other items as the commissioner may by rule or order specify.

(18) "Registered broker-dealer" means a broker-dealer registered pursuant to 30-10-201.

(19) "Sale" or "sell" includes each contract of sale of, contract to sell, or disposition of a security or interest in a security for value.

(20) (a) "Salesperson" means an individual other than a broker-dealer who represents a broker-dealer or issuer in effecting or attempting to effect sales of securities. A partner, officer, or director of a broker-dealer or issuer is a salesperson only if the person otherwise comes within this definition.

(b) Salesperson does not include an individual who represents:

(i) an issuer in effecting a transaction:

(A) ~~effecting a transaction~~ in a security exempted by 30-10-104(1), (2), (3), (8), (9), (10), or (11);

(B) ~~effecting transactions~~ exempted by 30-10-105, except when registration as a salesperson, pursuant to 30-10-201, is required by 30-10-105 or by any rule promulgated under 30-10-105;

(C) ~~effecting transactions~~ in a federal covered security described in section 18(b)(4)(D) of the Securities Act of 1933 if a commission or other remuneration is not paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting a prospective buyer; or

(D) ~~effecting transactions~~ with existing employees, partners, or directors of the issuer if no commission or other remuneration is paid or given directly or indirectly for soliciting any person in this state; or

(ii) a broker-dealer in effecting in this state solely those transactions described in section 15(h)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(21) "Securities Act of 1933", "Securities Exchange Act of 1934", "Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935", "Investment Advisors Act of 1940", and "Investment Company Act of 1940" mean the federal statutes of those names.

(22) (a) "Security" means any note; stock; treasury stock; bond; commodity investment contract; commodity option; debenture; evidence of indebtedness; certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement; collateral-trust certificate; preorganization certificate or subscription; transferable shares; investment contract; voting-trust certificate; certificate of deposit for a security; viatical settlement purchase agreement; certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under

a title or lease; or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a security, any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on any security, certificate of deposit, or group or index of securities, including any interest in a security or based on the value of a security, or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any of the foregoing.

(b) Security does not include:

(i) an insurance or endowment policy or annuity contract under which an insurance company promises to pay a fixed sum of money either in a lump sum or periodically for life or some other specified period; or

(ii) real estate as defined in 37-51-102(19)(b).

(23) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

(24) "Transact", "transact business", or "transaction" includes the meanings of the terms "sale", "sell", and "offer".

Section 2. Section 37-51-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"37-51-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Account" means the real estate recovery account established in 37-51-501.

(2) (a) "Adverse material fact" means a fact that should be recognized by a broker or salesperson as being of enough significance as to affect a person's decision to enter into a contract to buy or sell real property and may be a fact that:

(i) materially affects the value, affects structural integrity, or presents a documented health risk to occupants of the property; or

(ii) materially affects the buyer's ability or intent to perform the buyer's obligations under a proposed or existing contract.

(b) The term does not include the fact that an occupant of the property has or has had a communicable disease or that the property was the site of a suicide or felony.

(3) "Board" means the board of realty regulation provided for in 2-15-1757.

(4) "Broker" includes an individual who:

(a) for another or for valuable consideration or who with the intent or expectation of receiving valuable consideration negotiates or attempts to negotiate the listing, sale, purchase, rental, exchange, or lease of real estate or of the improvements on real estate or collects rents or attempts to collect rents;

(b) is employed by or on behalf of the owner or lessor of real estate to conduct the sale, leasing, subleasing, or other disposition of real estate for consideration;

(c) engages in the business of charging an advance fee or contracting for collection of a fee in connection with a contract by which the individual undertakes primarily to promote the sale, lease, or other disposition of real estate in this state through its listing in a publication issued primarily for this purpose or for referral of information concerning real estate to brokers;

(d) makes the advertising, sale, lease, or other real estate information available by public display to potential buyers and who aids, attempts, or offers to aid, for a fee, any person in locating or obtaining any real estate for purchase or lease;

(e) aids or attempts or offers to aid, for a fee, any person in locating or obtaining any real estate for purchase or lease;

(f) receives a fee, commission, or other compensation for referring to a licensed broker or salesperson the name of a prospective buyer or seller of real property; or

(g) advertises or represents to the public that the individual is engaged in any of the activities referred to in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(f).

(5) "Buyer" means a person who is interested in acquiring an ownership interest in real property or who has entered into an agreement to acquire an interest in real property. The term includes tenants or potential tenants with respect to leases or rental agreements of real property.

(6) "Buyer agent" means a broker or salesperson who, pursuant to a written buyer broker agreement, is acting as the agent of the buyer in a real estate transaction and includes a buyer subagent and an in-house buyer agent designate.

(7) "Buyer broker agreement" means a written agreement in which a prospective buyer employs a broker to locate real estate of the type and with terms and conditions as designated in the written agreement.

(8) "Buyer subagent" means a broker or salesperson who, pursuant to an offer of a subagency, acts as the agent of a buyer.

(9) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in ~~Title 2, chapter 15, part 17~~ 2-15-1701.

(10) "Dual agent" means a broker or salesperson who, pursuant to a written listing agreement or buyer broker agreement or as a buyer or seller subagent, acts as the agent of both the buyer and seller with written authorization, as provided in 37-51-314. An in-house buyer or seller agent designate may not be considered a dual agent.

(11) "Franchise agreement" means a contract or agreement by which:

(a) a franchisee is granted the right to engage in business under a marketing plan prescribed in substantial part by the franchisor;

(b) the operation of the franchisee's business is substantially associated with the franchisor's trademark, trade name, logotype, or other commercial symbol or advertising designating the franchisor; and

(c) the franchisee is required to pay, directly or indirectly, a fee for the right to operate under the agreement.

(12) "In-house buyer agent designate" means a broker or salesperson employed by or associated as an independent contractor with a broker and designated by the broker as the exclusive agent for a buyer for a designated transaction and who may not be considered to be acting for other than the buyer with respect to the designated transaction.

(13) "In-house seller agent designate" means a broker or salesperson employed by or associated as an independent contractor with a broker and designated by the broker as the exclusive agent for a seller for a designated transaction and who may not be considered to be acting for other than the seller with respect to the designated transaction.

(14) "Listing agreement" means a written agreement between a seller and broker for the sale of real estate, with the terms and conditions set out in the agreement.

(15) "Management agreement" means a written agreement for the management of rental real estate or a master lease that governs leases or subleases.

~~(15)~~(16) "Negotiations" means:

(a) efforts to act as an intermediary between parties to a real estate transaction;

(b) facilitating and participating in contract discussions;

(c) completing forms for offers, counteroffers, addendums, and other writings; and

(d) presenting offers and counteroffers.

~~(16)~~(17) "Person" includes individuals, partnerships, associations, and corporations, foreign and domestic, except that when referring to a person licensed under this chapter, it means an individual.

~~(17)~~(18) "Property manager" includes a person who for a salary, commission, or compensation of any kind engages in the business of leasing, renting, subleasing, or other transfer of possession of real estate belonging to others without transfer of the title to the property, pursuant to 37-51-601 and 37-51-602.

~~(18)~~(19) "Real estate" includes:

(a) leaseholds as well as any other interest or estate in land, whether corporeal, incorporeal, freehold,

or nonfreehold and whether the real estate is situated in this state or elsewhere;

(b) an interest in an undivided fractionalized long-term estate in real property.

~~(19)~~(20) "Real estate transaction" means the sale, exchange, or lease or grant of an option for the sale, exchange, or lease of an interest in real estate and includes all communication, interposition, advisement, negotiation, and contract development and closing.

~~(20)~~(21) "Salesperson" includes an individual who for a salary, commission, or compensation of any kind is associated, either directly, indirectly, regularly, or occasionally, with a real estate broker to sell, purchase, or negotiate for the sale, purchase, exchange, or renting of real estate.

~~(21)~~(22) "Seller" means a person who has entered into a listing agreement to sell real estate and includes landlords who have an interest in or are a party to a lease or rental agreement.

~~(22)~~(23) "Seller agent" means a broker or salesperson who, pursuant to a written listing agreement, acts as the agent of a seller and includes a seller subagent and an in-house seller agent designate.

~~(23)~~(24) "Seller subagent" means a broker or salesperson who, pursuant to an offer of a subagency, acts as the agent of a seller.

~~(24)~~(25) (a) "Statutory broker" means a broker or salesperson who assists one or more parties to a real estate transaction without acting as an agent or representative of any party to the real estate transaction.

(b) A broker or salesperson is presumed to be acting as a statutory broker unless the broker or salesperson has entered into a listing agreement with a seller or a buyer broker agreement with a buyer or has disclosed, as required in this chapter, a relationship other than that of a statutory broker.

(26) "Undivided fractionalized long-term estate in real property" means an ownership interest in real property that:

(a) is a tenancy in common or any other undivided estate, including but not limited to a fee or life estate;

(b) consists of 2 to 35 owners; and

(c) if the real property is subject to a management agreement, the management agreement permits a majority of the owners to not renew or to terminate the agreement at the earlier of the end of the term of the agreement or 180 days after the date on which the majority of the owners give notice of termination."

Section 3. Section 37-53-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"37-53-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advertisement" means a written, printed, audio, or visual communication that is published in whole

or in part to sell, offer to sell, or solicit an offer for a timeshare.

(2) "Affiliate" means a person who controls, is controlled by, or is under the control of a developer.

(3) "Association" or "owners' association" means the association of owners created by the timeshare instruments for purposes of managing and maintaining the project for the benefit of all timeshare owners.

(4) "Board" means the board of realty regulation provided for in 2-15-1757.

(5) "Developer" means:

(a) a person creating timeshares or engaged in the business of selling ~~his~~ the person's own timeshares;

(b) a person who controls, is controlled by, or is in common control with the person engaged in creating or selling timeshares; or

(c) any successor or assignee of a person referred to in subsection (5)(a) or (5)(b).

(6) "Managing entity" means a person hired by the timeshare association or developer to manage the timeshare plan or the timeshare property.

(7) "Offer" or "offering" means an inducement, solicitation, or attempt to encourage a person to acquire a timeshare. An offer is made in this state if the offer originates in this state or if the principal timeshare property is located in this state.

(8) "Person" means ~~a natural person~~ an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, or other legal or commercial entity.

(9) "Prize and gift promotional offer" means advertising material stating that a prospective purchaser may receive goods or services other than the timeshare plan itself, either free or at a discount, including but not limited to the use of a prize, gift, award, premium, or lodging or vacation certificate.

(10) "Project" means the real property or real estate, ~~that~~ which must contain more than one unit, in which timeshares are created by a single instrument or set of instruments.

(11) "Promoter" means any person who initiates the inducement, solicitation, or encouragement of another person, by any means, of the review or acquisition of a timeshare interval.

(12) "Purchaser" means a person, other than a developer, who by means of a voluntary transfer acquires a legal or equitable interest in a timeshare, other than as security for an obligation.

(13) "Real estate" means real estate as defined in ~~37-51-102~~ 37-51-102(19)(a).

(14) "Sale" or "sell" includes each contract of sale of, contract to sell, or disposition of a timeshare for value.

(15) "Timeshare broker" means ~~a natural person~~ an individual who supervises a timeshare sales operation and one or more timeshare salespersons.

(16) "Timeshare expenses" means expenditures, fees, charges, or liabilities:

(a) incurred with respect to the timeshares by or on behalf of all timeshare owners in one timeshare property; and

(b) imposed on the timeshare by the entity governing a project of which the timeshare is a part, together with any allocations to reserve. The term does not include purchase money payable for timeshares.

(17) "Timeshare instrument" means one or more documents, by whatever name denominated, creating or regulating timeshares.

(18) "Timeshare interval" or "timeshare interest" means the right, however evidenced or documented, to use and occupy one or more timeshare units on a periodic basis according to an arrangement allocating ~~such~~ the use and occupancy rights between similar users.

(19) "Timeshare owner" means a person, other than a developer, who is an owner or co-owner of a timeshare. If title to a timeshare is held in trust, timeshare owner means the beneficiary of the trust.

(20) "Timeshare salesperson" means a person who for a salary, commission, or compensation of any kind is associated, either directly or indirectly, regularly or occasionally, with a timeshare broker to sell, purchase, or negotiate for sale, purchase, lease, or exchange of the timeshare interests in real estate and who, on behalf of a developer, sells or offers to sell a timeshare to a purchaser.

(21) "Timeshare unit" or "unit" means the real property or portion ~~thereof~~ of the real property in which the timeshare exists and that is designated for separate use, including campgrounds, campsites, and outdoor recreation sites with spaces designed or promoted for the purpose of locating a trailer, tent, tent trailer, camper, or similar device for land-based portable housing."

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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