

Professional Licensing and Regulation Bureau (PLB) (12/31/17)

- A. What is our Mission and Purpose?** Protect the public through licensing and regulation of defined professionals in the State of Iowa.
- B. Who are the boards and who do we license?** (33,103 individuals and 2,469 firms)
1. **Iowa Accountancy Examining Board** - 6,674 CPAs, 70 LPAs, 577 firms (June 30 annual renewal)
 2. **Architectural Examining Board** - 2,232 individuals (June 30 biennial renewal)
 3. **Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board** – 10,429 individuals (December 31 biennial renewal)
 4. **Interior Design Examining Board** - 69 individuals (June 30 biennial renewal)
 5. **Landscape Architectural Examining Board** - 273 individuals (June 30 biennial renewal)
 6. **Real Estate Commission** - 7,778 RE Salespeople & 5,601 RE Brokers (December 31 triennial renewal)
- C. What do we do?** Provide administrative support and coordinating activities for the 6 professional licensing boards. Each board is responsible for establishing and enforcing standards for licensure, certification, or registration. The standards generally include initial education, experience, a test, continuing education, and perhaps a review of practices.
1. **Board Administration** – Schedule meetings, provide guidance, record minutes, and retain records.
 2. **Licensing** – Original (2,400 annually) & Renewal (about 17,000 annually)
 - Original application would include review of qualifying: test results, education, experience, & general background. (There also are provisions for reciprocal licenses when a person originally obtained the license in another state.)
 - Renewals in June and December
 - Approval of RE and RE Appraiser Education
 - Overseeing Work-product Review
 3. **Audits** –
 - Trust Audits of RE Brokers
 - Continuing Education Audits
 - Error & Omission Insurance Audits
 4. **Complaint Investigation** – investigated 348 complaints in the year-ending December 31, 2017.
 5. **Correspondence - Position Requests – Queries – Other**
- D. Major Changes:**
1. Real Estate Appraiser Examining Board (REAP) moved from PLB to FB.
Effective January 1, 2017, legislation was passed:
 - a) Requiring the licensing and supervision of Appraisal Management Companies (AMCs) (88 licenses) *[The legislation ensured Iowa lenders would be able to continue to use AMCs without interruption. Under federal law an AMC would not have been able to perform services related to federally related mortgage transactions after August 18, 2018, unless the company was registered with and subject to supervision by the state of Iowa.]* and
 - b) Bringing the REAP under the supervision of the superintendent. (1,217 licenses) *[thereby reducing the board's exposure to federal anti-trust liability]*
 2. New licensing system implemented on 9-11-2017.
 - a) System was designed to standardize methods for licensure and complaint investigation; reduce paper forms; reduce approval time; easily generate license certificates; improve communication between applicants, licensees, citizens, other regulators, and PLB staff; and improve reporting capabilities and data reliability.
 - b) Utilizes Salesforce platform and BasicGov programming.
 - c) Cost: \$804,259 to build, \$90,000 annual subscription fees, up to \$85,000 annually for two years post go-live support.