

**MARYLAND COLLECTION AGENCY LICENSING BOARD**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016 – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

The Collection Agency Licensing Board (the “Board”) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordon Cooley at 10:30 am at the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, Baltimore, Maryland. Members in attendance were Eric Friedman, Stephan Hannan, Susan Hayes, and Joanne Young as well as Administrator Michael Jackson and Administrative Officer Kelly Mack. Also present were Assistant Commissioner Jedd Bellman, Assistant Attorney General Kevin McGivern, and Director of Licensing Juan Sempertegui. On motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

**LICENSEE REPORT**

Mr. Sempertegui delivered a report regarding the number of licensees and changes since the previous Board meeting. There are currently 1549 licensed collection agency licensees operating in Maryland, an increase of 47 since last period, and which total includes 379 branch offices and 33 new applications approved since April 30, 2016.

Mr. Sempertegui also explained there have been amendments to recently updated forms utilized in the Licensing Unit which include changes to the bond form to include the effective date. Also, on the checklist changes were made to the Certificate of Good Standing requirement as applicants must be registered and in good standing with MDAT and the good standing status may be verified on the SDAT website. The change of control form was also edited to define “YOU” and change the time frame in question #4 from “ever” to 12 months. These forms were updated, formalized and are now published on our website.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Ms. Mack reported there was six change of control application requests processed since the previous Board meeting. The board had no questions or concerns about the six applications. Ms. Mack reiterated that the change of control application update form has been updated and is now reflected on the website as previously noted.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Bellman reported on enforcement activity conducted by the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation on behalf of the Board since the previous meeting. He indicated there are currently 13 active cases, four investigations and four pending cases awaiting final orders. It was further reported that collection agency complaints are increasing and generating more enforcement activity.