

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 17, 1955

To the Real Estate Commission  
Re: L. D. 1218

In view of my inability to attend the hearing scheduled for March 22nd I should like to give the reason for the proposed change in Section 4 of Chapter 84.

Generally speaking, it is the duty of the Commission under Section 4 to license only those persons who are trustworthy and competent to transact the business of a real estate broker or salesman. The last sentence provides:

"Prior conviction for embezzlement or obtaining money by false pretense shall be, among others, sufficient grounds for denying a license."

The suggested change repeals this sentence and replaces it with:

"A license may be denied to any applicant who has been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude."

The previous sentence was so indefinite as a ground for refusal that we had a problem every time a specific case arose. It mentions two specific crimes and then a more or less catch-all phrase, while the new statute would circumscribe the field and limit it to crimes involving moral turpitude, which any applicant or any lawyer representing an applicant could readily ascertain if he had before him any given offense.

Roger A. Patnam  
Assistant Attorney General

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