Chapter 17.
Auctioneers.

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Chapter 17. Auctioneers.


17-17-101. Title.

This chapter shall be known and cited as the "Auctioneer's Licensing Act".


17-17-102. Legislative intent.

It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the current law pertaining to auctioneers is out of date and is not being enforced, there is no administrative agency to enforce the laws pertaining to auctioneers, Arkansas does not have the ability, without legislation, to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states to allow the persons licensed as auctioneers in Arkansas to engage in the business of auctioneering in other states, auctioneers are not required to establish an escrow account to handle money belonging to others, and without legislation the level of professionalism desired by auctioneers cannot be attained. Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to establish a board to license and regulate auctioneers, other than livestock auction barn auctioneers and auctioneers conducting certain kinds of auctions.


17-17-103. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Auctioneer" means any person who, for a fee, commission, or any other valuable consideration, or with the intention or expectation of receiving the same, by the means of, or process of, an auction or sale at auction, offers, negotiates, or attempts to negotiate, a listing contract, sale, purchase, or exchange of goods, chattels, merchandise, or personal property, or of any other commodity which may lawfully be kept or offered for sale by or at public auction;

(2) "Board" means the Auctioneer's Licensing Board;

(3) "Goods" means any chattels, goods, merchandise, or personal property, or commodities of any form or type which may be lawfully kept or offered for sale;

(4) "Livestock auction barn" means a place where livestock is sold on a regular basis to the public;

(5) "Livestock auction barn auctioneer" means an auctioneer who is solely engaged in the selling of livestock on a regular basis at one (1) or more locations; and
(6) "Persons" includes individuals, associations, partnerships, and corporations, and the word "persons" shall also include the officers, directors, and employees of a corporation.


17-17-104. Applicability - Exception.

(a) This chapter does not apply to:

(1) Sales at an auction conducted by or under the direction of a public authority or pursuant to a judicial order or decree or to a sale by law required to be at auction;

(2) An auction conducted by or for a nonprofit organization;

(3) An individual who offers his or her own goods for auction;

(4) A livestock auction barn auctioneer; or

(5) An auction conducted over the Internet by means of a website dedicated primarily to conducting auctions.

(b)(1) An auctioneer may work for an auction company that is licensed in the State of Arkansas in an emergency for a period of ninety (90) days.

(2) During the ninety-day period, the auctioneer shall make application and pay fees for the next testing date.

(3) After the ninety-day period, the auctioneer shall meet all of the provisions of this chapter.


17-17-105. License required - Penalty for violation.

(a) On and after July 1, 1989, it shall be unlawful for any person to act as an auctioneer or to advertise or to assume to act as either within this state without a license issued by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board.

(b) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars ($100) nor more than five hundred dollars ($500), or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both.


17-17-106. Actions by auctioneers.
No person engaged in the business of or acting in the capacity of an auctioneer shall bring or maintain any action in the courts of the State of Arkansas for the collection of compensation for any services permitted as an auctioneer without first alleging and proving that he or she was operating legally under the provisions of this chapter and was a duly licensed auctioneer at the time the alleged cause of action arose.


17-17-107. Municipal taxes.

No person following for a livelihood the profession of an auctioneer shall be taxed or made liable to pay any municipal or other corporation tax or license fee for the privilege of following or carrying on the profession by a municipality unless that person maintains a business office within that municipality.


17-17-108. [Repealed.]

Repealed.

17-17-109. [Repealed.]

Repealed.

17-17-110. [Repealed.]

Repealed.

17-17-111. [Repealed.]

Repealed.

17-17-112. Written contract.

(a) An auctioneer may not sell the property of another at auction without a prior written contract with the seller which sets forth the terms and conditions upon which the auctioneer will sell the property. The licensee must retain a copy of each contract for at least three (3) years after the auction.

(b) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board is authorized to prescribe by regulations the minimum requirements which must be included in a written contract.

17-17-113. Injunction.

(a) Whenever there is reason to believe that any person, licensed or unlicensed, has violated any provision of this chapter or any order, license, decision, demand, or requirement issued or made pursuant to this chapter, the Auctioneer's Licensing Board or its authorized representative may bring an action in the circuit court of any county in which the person resides or does business to enjoin such a person from continuing such a violation or engaging therein or doing any act or acts in furtherance thereof.

(b) Whenever there is any action brought pursuant to this section, the circuit court shall have jurisdiction and authority to enter a preliminary or final injunction or such other relief as may be appropriate.


17-17-114. Civil penalty.

(a)(1) Whenever the Auctioneer's Licensing Board finds that the holder of a license issued by the board is guilty of a violation of the rules of the board or the laws of the State of Arkansas pertaining to any occupation, profession, or business licensed or regulated by the board, it shall have the power and authority to impose a civil penalty and suspension or revocation of the license.

(2) Upon imposition of a civil penalty, the board shall have the power and authority to require that the licensee pay a penalty to the board in regard to the violation with the sanction that the license may be suspended until the penalty is paid.

(3) Before the imposition of any penalty, the board shall hold an investigation and hearing after notice to a licensee or his or her attorney. The penalty may be imposed only if the board formally finds that the public health, safety, welfare, and morals would not be impaired thereby and that payment of the penalty will achieve the desired disciplinary result.

(b) No penalty imposed by the board may exceed a total of one thousand dollars ($1,000). The power and authority of the board to impose these penalties shall not be affected by any other civil or criminal proceeding concerning the same violation.

(c) If any person upon whom the board has levied a civil penalty fails to pay the civil penalty within sixty (60) days of the board's decision to impose the penalty, the amount of the fine shall be considered to be a debt owed to the board and may be collected by civil action by the board.

(d) Any person penalized by the board under this chapter may appeal any order of the board in the manner now provided by law.
(e) In addition to any other sanctions authorized by this chapter, the board may impose a civil penalty as provided in this section against any unlicensed person, firm, or corporation practicing or offering to practice any actions requiring licensure pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(f) The board is authorized to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter.


17-17-115. Inspection - Cease and desist.

(a) Subsequent to five (5) days after proof of receipt of certified mail by the alleged offending auctioneer or auction house of any alleged violation or violations, the Auctioneer's Licensing Board or its authorized representative may enter the premises of any auction or auction house for the purpose of examining the license of an auctioneer or auction house, or both.

(b) Should the board or its authorized representative find that an unlicensed auctioneer or auction house, or both, is practicing or offering to practice any actions requiring a license pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the board or its authorized representative has the authority to demand that such unlicensed activity cease and desist immediately.

(c) Any auctioneer or auction house, or both, refusing to allow the board or its authorized representative to inspect the premises of an auction or auction house for the purpose of examining the license of the auctioneer or auction house, or both, may be subject to a civil penalty.

(d) Any unlicensed auctioneer or auction house, or both, found to be practicing or offering to practice any actions requiring a license pursuant to the provisions of this chapter who refuses to cease and desist such unlicensed activity upon the request of the board or its authorized representative will be subject to criminal or civil penalties, or both.


Subchapter 2. Auctioneer's Licensing Board

17-17-201. Creation - Members.

(a) There is hereby created the Auctioneer's Licensing Board. The Governor shall appoint a board consisting of seven (7) members, four (4) of whom are licensed auctioneers and three (3) from the public at large, each of whom immediately prior to the date of his or her appointment has been a resident of the State of Arkansas for five (5) years.
(b) The four (4) members who are auctioneers shall have been auctioneers for at least five (5) years.

(c) Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. All successor members shall serve terms of four (4) years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(d) Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Governor for the unexpired term.

(e) Each member of the board may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.


(a) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board, immediately upon qualification of the member appointed in each year, shall organize by selecting from its members a chair.

(b) A quorum of the board shall be four (4) members.


17-17-203. Employees - Supplies.

(a) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall have full authority to employ, and discharge, a secretary who shall also be the treasurer, and such other personnel as may be necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The board shall obtain office space, furniture, stationery, and other proper supplies and conveniences reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.


17-17-204. Secretary-treasurer - Disposition of funds.

(a) All fees, charges, and penalties collected by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid to the Secretary-treasurer of the Auctioneer's Licensing Board, who shall be the custodian of all funds and shall deposit them in a bank or banks to be designated by the board.

(b) The secretary-treasurer shall execute a bond in an amount determined by the State Risk Manager pursuant to the self-insured fidelity program as authorized in § 21-2-701 et seq.
(c)(1) The secretary-treasurer shall pay funds of the board only on vouchers signed by himself or herself and countersigned by the Chair of the Auctioneer's Licensing Board.

(2) The total expenses for all purposes and obligations of the board shall not exceed the total fees, charges, penalties, and other funds paid to the board under the provisions of this chapter.

(d) The secretary-treasurer shall make semiannual financial reports in detail to the board not later than January 30 and July 30 of each year, which will be kept on permanent file by the board.


17-17-205. Finances - Educational programs.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall be financially self-sustaining, and, if funds permit, it may underwrite, within its financial limitations, educational programs for the enlightenment and benefit of the public and all auctioneers licensed under this chapter.


17-17-206. List of licensees.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall annually publish a list of the names and addresses of all auctioneers licensed by it pursuant to this chapter. This list shall contain the names of all persons whose licenses have been suspended or revoked within the preceding year as well as any other information relative to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter that the board may deem of interest to the public.


17-17-207. Rules and regulations.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall have the authority to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement this chapter and may establish by regulation such forms as may be necessary to administer this chapter.


17-17-208. Proceedings.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall be subject to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

17-17-209. Seal - Records.

(a) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall adopt a seal by which it shall authenticate its proceedings.

(b) Copies of all records and papers in the office of the board, duly certified and authenticated by the seal of the board, shall be received in evidence in all courts equally and with like effect as the original.

(c) All records kept in the office of the board under the authority of this chapter shall be open to public inspection under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the board.


Subchapter 3. Licensing

17-17-301. Qualifications - Examination.

(a) Auctioneer licenses shall be granted only to persons who are found to be of good reputation, trustworthy, and competent to transact the business of an auctioneer, in such a manner as to safeguard the interest of the public.

(b) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board is authorized to require information from every applicant to determine the applicant's honesty and truthfulness.

(c) In addition to proof of honesty, truthfulness, and good reputation, an examination conducted by the board or its authorized representatives shall be held four (4) times each year, and an examination fee of one hundred dollars ($100) shall be collected from each applicant to defray the expenses of the examination.

(2) The examination shall include questions on ethics, reading, writing, spelling, elementary arithmetic, and a general knowledge of the laws of Arkansas and the Arkansas Code, including, but not limited to, contracts of sale, agency, leases, auctions brokerage, and the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, § 4-1-101 et seq.

(d) In addition to the other qualifications provided for by this chapter, every applicant for an auctioneer's license shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Every application for a license shall be submitted on forms prepared by the board.


17-17-302. Issuance and renewal - Change of location.

(a) An examination shall not be required for the renewal of any present or future license unless the license has been revoked. In this case, the applicant shall take and pass
the written examination offered by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board before a new license may be issued.

(2) Licensed auctioneers have a one-hundred-twenty-day grace period beyond a renewal date to renew a license.

(3)(A) Penalty for late renewals beyond the one-hundred-twenty-day grace period shall be two (2) times the sum of a normal license renewal fee.

(B)(i) The board shall notify a licensee of the penalty in subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section by first class mail.

(ii) If a licensee does not renew his or her license within thirty (30) days after the notice in subdivision (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section is mailed, the board shall send a second notice by certified mail.

(b)(1)(A) The issuance fee for each auctioneer's license shall be one hundred dollars ($100).

(B) The annual renewal fee for each license shall be one hundred dollars ($100).

(C) All licenses shall expire on June 30 of each year.

(2) In the absence of a reason or condition that might warrant the refusal of the renewing of the license and upon receipt of the written request of the applicant and the applicant's annual fee, the board shall issue a new license each ensuing year.

(c) The board shall prepare and deliver to each licensee a license certificate and pocket card.

(d)(1) Notice in writing shall be given to the board by each licensee of any change of business location within thirty (30) days after any change in location, and at that time the board shall issue a new license for the unexpired period.

(2) A change of business location shall automatically cancel the license previously issued.

(3) Changing a business location and issuance of a new license shall entitle the board to collect five dollars ($5.00).


17-17-303. [Repealed.]

Repealed.

(a) A nonresident of this state may become a licensed auctioneer in this state by registering with the Auctioneer’s Licensing Board and confirming in writing that his or her actions will be regulated by this chapter and other applicable laws of this state as stated in this section and §§ 17-17-305 and 17-17-306.

(b)(1) In every instance the nonresident must pay the issuance fee, the annual renewal fee, and the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund fee.

(2)(A) No person who is not a resident of this state shall conduct any livestock auction in this state unless bonded for at least fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) by a surety licensed to do business in this state by the Insurance Commissioner.

(B) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class A misdemeanor.


A.S.A. 1947, § 71-413.

17-17-305. Nonresidents - Reciprocity.

(a) A person holding a license to engage in auctions issued to him or her by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States of America or the District of Columbia having licensing requirements comparable to Arkansas and who in the opinion of the Auctioneer’s Licensing Board otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter may upon application be licensed without further examination.

(b)(1) Nothing in this section and §§ 17-17-304 and 17-17-306 shall prevent the conducting of any auction in this state by any nonresident auctioneer if such an auctioneer is duly licensed by the state of his or her residence and that state, through reciprocity, permits a resident of this state who is an auctioneer duly licensed to conduct auctions in this state to conduct auctions in the other state without being required to obtain a license in the other state.

(2) The license fee applicable to a nonresident auctioneer from another state which does not permit an auctioneer who is a resident of this state and who is duly licensed in this state to conduct auctions in the other state without being required to obtain a license in the other state shall be of the same amount that the other state charges auctioneers who are residents of this state and who are duly licensed in this state to obtain a license to conduct an auction in the other state.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person duly licensed as an auctioneer in any other state and temporarily present in this state shall conduct an auction in this state unless he or she acts in association with an auctioneer duly licensed in this state if the state in which the nonresident auctioneer is licensed requires such an
association with an auctioneer licensed in that state before an auctioneer duly licensed in
Arkansas may conduct an auction in that state.


17-17-306. Nonresidents - Actions against.

In addition, every nonresident applicant shall file an irrevocable consent that actions
may be commenced against the applicant in any court of competent jurisdiction in the
State of Arkansas, by the service of any summons, process, or pleading authorized by the
law on the secretary of the Auctioneer's Licensing Board. The consent shall stipulate and
agree that the service of the process, summons, or pleading on the secretary shall be taken
and held in all courts to be as valid and binding as if actual service had been made upon
the applicant in Arkansas. In case any summons, process, or pleading is served upon the
secretary of the board, it shall be by duplicate copies, one (1) of which shall be retained
in the office of the board, and the other immediately forwarded by registered mail to the
last known business address of the applicant against whom the summons, process, or
pleading may be directed.


17-17-307. Auction owners.

(a) If an auction owner is one other than the principal auctioneer, the auction owner
shall apply for a license and meet all the provisions of this chapter.

(b) When the owner of an auction company or the designated person of a corporation
and the auctioneer are one and the same, only one (1) license shall be required.


17-17-308. Suspension or revocation.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board may impose a civil penalty or suspend or revoke the
license of an auctioneer for any of the following causes:

(1) Obtaining a license through false or fraudulent representation;

(2) Pursuing a continued and flagrant course of misrepresentation or making false
promises through agents or advertising or otherwise;

(3) Failing to account for or remit within a reasonable time any money belonging to
others that comes into his or her possession;

(4) Commingling funds of others with his or her own or failing to keep the funds of
others in an escrow or trustee account;
(5) Paying valuable consideration to any person for services performed in violation of this chapter;

(6) Being convicted of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude or a felony in a court of competent jurisdiction of this or any other jurisdiction;

(7) Willfully violating a rule or regulation promulgated by the board;

(8) Failing to enter into a written contract with the seller and to furnish voluntarily to the seller at the time of execution copies of all written instruments prepared by the auctioneer, including the contract;

(9) Any conduct of an auctioneer that demonstrates bad faith, dishonesty, incompetency, untruthfulness, or deceptive practices;

(10) Any other conduct that constitutes improper, fraudulent, or dishonest dealings, including falsely accusing any auctioneer or auction house;

(11) Failing to complete or submit the continuing education requirements as specified by this chapter and the rules and regulations adopted by the board; or

(12) Failing to disclose the buyer's premium in all advertising associated with an auction.


17-17-309. Investigation by board.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board may, upon its own motion, and shall, upon the verified written complaint of any person, investigate the actions of any auctioneer or any person who assumes to act in that capacity, if the complaint, or complaint together with other evidence presented in connection with it if true, would be a violation of this chapter.


17-17-310. Advertisements.

Each and every advertisement by an auctioneer or consignment auction house shall include the number of the license issued to the auctioneer or auction company by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board.

17-17-311. Continuing education.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, every application to the Auctioneer's Licensing Board for annual renewal of the license of an auctioneer shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant has satisfactorily completed six (6) hours of continuing education in approved programs within the preceding twelve-month period. No auctioneer's license shall be renewed unless the application for renewal is accompanied by the proof required in this section.

(b) All programs of continuing education for licensed auctioneers shall be subject to approval of the board. The board is authorized to prescribe by regulations the minimum standards and requirements for continuing education programs for auctioneers, the procedures and policies for administering such programs, and the manner and conditions under which credit will be granted for participation in such programs.

(c) The continuing education requirements of this section shall not be applicable to any person who has been licensed as an auctioneer or auction house owner or operator by the board for a period of ten (10) consecutive years or more and who is at least fifty-five (55) years of age.


17-17-312. Criminal background checks.

(a) Beginning July 16, 2003, each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board and each applicant seeking reinstatement of an expired license from the board shall be required to apply to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.

(c) The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Department of Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.

(d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all information obtained concerning the applicant in the commission of any offense listed in subsection (f) of this section.

(e) At the conclusion of any background check required by this section, the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police shall promptly destroy the fingerprint card of the applicant.
(f) No person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the board if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of, any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court:

(1) Capital murder, as prohibited in § 5-10-101;

(2) Murder in the first degree and second degree, as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10-103;

(3) Manslaughter, as prohibited in § 5-10-104;

(4) Negligent homicide, as prohibited in § 5-10-105;

(5) Kidnapping, as prohibited in § 5-11-102;

(6) False imprisonment in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-11-103;

(7) Permanent detention or restraint, as prohibited in § 5-11-106;

(8) Robbery, as prohibited in § 5-12-102;

(9) Aggravated robbery, as prohibited in § 5-12-103;

(10) Battery in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-13-201;

(11) Aggravated assault, as prohibited in § 5-13-204;

(12) Introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person, as prohibited in § 5-13-210;

(13) Terroristic threatening in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-13-301;

(14) Rape, as prohibited in § 5-14-103;

(15) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-14-110;

(16) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree, as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 - 5-14-127;

(17) Incest, as prohibited in § 5-26-202;

(18) Offenses against the family, as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 - 5-26-306;

(19) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
(20) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-27-203;

(21) Permitting the abuse of a child, as prohibited in § 5-27-221(a)(1) and (3);

(22) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 - 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;

(23) Felony adult abuse, as prohibited in § 5-28-103;

(24) Theft of property, as prohibited in § 5-36-103;

(25) Theft by receiving, as prohibited in § 5-36-106;

(26) Arson, as prohibited in § 5-38-301;

(27) Burglary, as prohibited in § 5-39-201;

(28) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, §§ 5-64-101 - 5-64-608, as prohibited in § 5-64-401;

(29) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-70-104;

(30) Stalking, as prohibited in § 5-71-229; and

(31) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy, as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection.

(g)(1) The provisions of subsection (f) of this section may be waived by the board upon the request of:

(A) An affected applicant for licensure; or

(B) The person holding a license subject to revocation.

(2) Circumstances for which a waiver may be granted shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) The age at which the crime was committed;

(B) The circumstances surrounding the crime;
(C) The length of time since the crime;

(D) Subsequent work history;

(E) Employment references; and

(F) Character references.

(h)(1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by the:

(A) Affected applicant for licensure, or his or her authorized representative; or

(B) Person whose license is subject to revocation, or his or her authorized representative.

(2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Department of Arkansas State Police.

(i) Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or to the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(j) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established under this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.

(k) The board shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this section.


Subchapter 4. Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund

17-17-401. Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund.

(a) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board shall establish a separate high interest bearing account in a bank located in this state. The account shall be referred to as the "Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund" and shall only be used for education and recovery purposes as detailed in this chapter.

(b) The fees collected under § 17-17-404 shall be deposited into the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund.

17-17-402. Applicability.

The provisions of this subchapter shall apply only to:

(1) Auctioneers who were licensed at the time of the occurrence of the acts or violations complained of; and

(2) Acts or violations which occur after December 31, 1999.


17-17-403. Construction.

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to limit or restrict in any manner other civil or criminal remedies which may be available to any person.


17-17-404. Additional fee.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each auctioneer shall pay to the Auctioneer's Licensing Board at the time of initial licensure and at each annual renewal a fee as the board may require, not to exceed one hundred dollars ($100). This fee shall be in addition to the other fees provided for in this chapter.

(b) When the balance in the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund reaches one hundred eighty thousand dollars ($180,000), the fee shall be suspended until the fund balance falls to one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) at which time the collection of the fee shall resume until the fund balance reaches one hundred eighty thousand dollars ($180,000).


17-17-405. Disciplinary hearing - Recovery procedure.

(a)(1) In any disciplinary hearing before the Auctioneer's Licensing Board that involves a licensee who has allegedly violated any provision of this chapter, the board shall first determine whether a violation has occurred.

(2) If so, the board shall then determine the amount of damages, if any, suffered by the aggrieved party or parties. However, damages shall be limited to actual damages in accordance with § 17-17-407.

(3) The board shall then direct the licensee to pay that amount to the aggrieved party or parties.
(4)(A) If that amount has not been paid within thirty (30) calendar days following entry of the board's final order in the matter and the order has not been appealed to the circuit court, then upon request the board shall pay from the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund to the aggrieved party or parties the amount specified.

(B) However, the board shall not:

(i) Pay in excess of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) for any one (1) violation or continuing series of violations regardless of the number of licensees who participated in the violation or continuing series of violations; or

(ii) Pay an amount in excess of the fund balance.

(b) The question of whether certain violations constitute a continuing series of violations shall be a matter solely within the discretion and judgment of the board.

(c) Nothing within this subchapter shall obligate the fund for any amount in excess of a total of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) with respect to:

(1) The acts of any one (1) licensee; or

(2) Any group of related claims.

(d) Whether a claim is one (1) of a group of related claims shall be a matter solely within the discretion and judgment of the board.

(e) When unsatisfied or pending claims exceed the limits payable under subsection (c) of this section, the board shall be the sole determinant of how the available funds shall be allocated among such claims.


17-17-406. Education.

The Auctioneer's Licensing Board, in its discretion, may use any funds in the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund in excess of the one-hundred-eighty-thousand-dollar level, regardless of whether it is from the fund fees or accrued interest thereon for any or all of the following purposes:

(1) To carry out the advancement of education in the auction field for the benefit of those licensed under the provisions of this chapter;

(2) To assist in the improvement and efficiency of the auctioneering profession; and
(3) To underwrite educational seminars and other forms of educational projects for the use and benefit of auctioneer licensees.


17-17-407. Jurisdiction.

(a) The Auctioneer's Licensing Board's jurisdiction and authority to award damages to an aggrieved party pursuant to § 17-17-405 is limited to actual, compensatory damages. The board shall not award punitive or exemplary damages, nor shall it award interest on damages.

(b) The appellate jurisdiction of the circuit court is limited to the awarding of actual, compensatory damages.

(c) The circuit court shall have no authority or jurisdiction to assess punitive or exemplary damages under this subchapter.

(d) The circuit court's jurisdiction over the Auctioneer Education and Recovery Fund shall be limited to appeals from the board's orders.

(e) The circuit court shall have no jurisdiction or authority to order payments from the fund in any amount in excess of either:

(1) The amount determined by the board; or

(2) The limits set forth in § 17-17-405.


17-17-408. Appeal.

(a) An appeal may be taken to the circuit court from a final order of the Auctioneer's Licensing Board in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(b) An appeal shall automatically stay that portion of the board's order which directs the payment of damages, and neither the licensee nor the board shall be obligated to pay the damages to the aggrieved party or parties until such time as the appeal is finally decided, whether in the circuit court or in the Arkansas Supreme Court.


17-17-409. Subrogation - Suspension of license.
Upon the payment by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board of any amount of money under § 17-17-405:

(1) The recipients of the payment, to the extent of the payment, shall assign to the board all rights and claims that they may have against the licensee involved;

(2) The board shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the recipients of the payment, to the extent of the payment; and

(3) In addition to any other disciplinary action taken against the licensee on the merits of the hearing, his or her license shall be immediately suspended until he or she has completely reimbursed the board for the payment plus interest at a rate to be determined by the board.