

**MARYLAND COLLECTION AGENCY LICENSING BOARD**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 – ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**

The Collection Agency Licensing Board (the “Board”) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordon Cooley at 10:30 am at Alacrity Collections Corporation, Annapolis, 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, and Assistant Attorney General W. Thomas Lawrie, Litigation Attorney to the Board. On motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of the November 15, 2015 meeting were approved with one minor change with reference to the NMLS.

**LICENSEE REPORT**

Mr. Jackson delivered a report regarding the number of licensees and changes since the previous Board meeting. There are currently 1502 collection agency licensees operating in Maryland, a decrease of 129 licenses since last period, and which total includes 375 branch offices and 33 new applications approved since February 16, 2016. Mr. Jackson also indicated the numbers will, for comparative purposes, be more accurate once all staggered debt collection licensees are properly renewed.

The board then discussed documentation required to prove existence of the required surety bond, both at original application and at renewal application. Staff will review current practices and legal requirements and present recommendations at the next board meeting.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Ms. Mack reported there was four change of control application requests processed since the previous Board meeting. The board had no questions or concerns about the four applications. Questions were raised about the clarity and completeness of the questions asked on the change in control application. Staff will review the current forms and legal requirements and present recommendations at the next board meeting.

**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 inactive cases have been referred to the Attorney General’s Office.