§ 93E-2-8. Disciplinary authority.

(a) The Board may, by order, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a registration of an appraisal management company under this Article or may restrict or limit activities of a person who owns an interest in or participates in the business of an appraisal management company if the Board determines that an applicant, registrant, or any partner, member, manager, officer, director, compliance manager, or person occupying a similar status, performing similar functions, or directly or indirectly controlling the applicant or registrant has done any of the following:

(1) Filed an application for registration that, as of its effective date or as of any date after filing, contained any statement that, in light of the circumstances under which it was made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact.

(2) Violated or failed to comply with any provision of this Article or any rules adopted by the Board.

(3) Been convicted of any felony or, within the past 10 years, been convicted of any misdemeanor involving mortgage lending or real estate appraisal or any offense involving breach of trust, moral turpitude, or fraudulent or dishonest dealing.

(4) Been permanently or temporarily enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction from engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice involving any aspect of the real estate appraisal management business.

(5) Been the subject of an order of the Board or any other state appraiser regulatory agency denying, suspending, or revoking the person's license as a real estate appraiser.

(6) Acted as an appraisal management company while not properly licensed by the Board.

(7) Failed to pay the proper filing or renewal fee under this Article.

(8) Failed to maintain the bond required by G.S. 93E-2-4.

(9) Failed to compensate appraisers in compliance with G.S. 93E-2-4(i).

(b) The Board may, by order, summarily postpone or suspend the registration of an appraisal management company pending final determination of any proceeding under this section. Upon entering the order, the Board shall promptly notify the registrant that the order has been entered and the reasons for the order. The Board shall calendar a hearing within 15 days after the Board receives a written request for a hearing. If a registrant does not request a hearing, the order shall remain in effect until the order is modified or vacated by the Board. If a hearing is requested, after notice of and opportunity for hearing, the Board may modify or vacate the order or extend the order until the Board makes its final determination.

(c) The Board may, by order, impose a civil penalty upon a registrant or any partner, officer, director, compliance manager, or other person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions on behalf of a registrant for any violation of this Article. The civil penalty shall not exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000) for each violation of this Article.

(d) In addition to other powers under this Article, upon finding that any action of a person is in violation of this Article, the Board may order the person to cease from the prohibited action. If the person subject to the order fails to appeal the order of the Board or the person appeals the order and the appeal is denied or dismissed and the person continues to engage in the prohibited action in violation of the Board's order, the person shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) for each violation of the order. The penalty provision of this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other provision of law applicable to a registrant for the registrant's failure to comply with an order of the Board.

(e) Unless otherwise provided, all actions and hearings under this Article shall be governed by Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

(f) When a registrant is accused of any act, omission, or misconduct that would subject the registrant to disciplinary action, the registrant, with the consent and approval of the Board, may surrender the registrant's registration and all the rights and privileges pertaining to the registrant for a minimum period of five years. A person who surrenders a registration shall not be eligible for or submit any application for registration during the period the registration is surrendered.

(g) If the Board has reasonable grounds to believe that an appraisal management company has violated the provisions of this Article or that facts exist that would be the basis for an order against an appraisal management company, the Board may at any time, either personally or by a person duly designated by the Board, investigate or examine the books, accounts, records, and files of any registrant or other person relating to the complaint or matter under investigation.

(g1) The Board may require any registrant or other person to submit a criminal history record check and a set of that person's fingerprints in connection with any examination or investigation. Refusal to submit the requested criminal history record check or a set of fingerprints shall be grounds for disciplinary action. The reasonable cost of the investigation or examination shall be charged against the registrant.

(h) The Board shall have the power to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of persons and the production of papers and records before the Board in any hearing, investigation, inquiry, or other proceeding conducted by the Board. Upon the production of any papers, records, or documents, the Board shall have the power to authorize true copies of the papers, records, or documents to be substituted in the permanent record of the matter in which the books, records, or documents shall have been introduced in evidence.

(i) Upon a request by the Board and with reasonable notice, an appraisal management company shall produce within this State all books and records related to real estate appraisal management services provided for properties located in North Carolina. (2010-141, s. 1; 2013-403, ss. 6, 7; 2016-61, s. 1(b).)