

**§13177-B. Unfair agreements to list residential real estate**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Long-term agreement" means a contract or agreement between a provider and an owner under which:

- (1) The owner agrees to list the owner's residential real estate for sale with the provider at a future date; and
- (2) Any portion of the real estate brokerage service to be provided under the contract or agreement by the provider may be performed more than 2 years after the date the contract or agreement becomes effective. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Owner" means an owner of an interest in residential real estate. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Provider" means a person or entity providing or offering to provide real estate brokerage services. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

D. "Recording" means presenting a document to a register of deeds for official placement in the records of the registry of deeds. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

E. "Residential real estate" means real estate consisting of not less than one nor more than 4 residential dwelling units. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]  
[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Prohibited agreements.** A provider may not enter into or offer to enter into a long-term agreement that purports to:

A. Bind any future owner not a party to the long-term agreement; [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

B. Allow for the assignment by the provider of a real estate brokerage service to a 3rd party without notice to or consent of the owner; [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

C. Create a lien, encumbrance or other real property security interest; or [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

D. Obligate the owner to pay a fee or commission to the provider upon a sale or transfer of the residential real estate when the sale or transfer is not the result of a real estate brokerage service provided by the provider. [PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]  
[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

**3. Unfair trade practice.** A violation of subsection 2 is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.  
[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

**4. Unenforceable; recording prohibited.** A long-term agreement in violation of subsection 2 is unenforceable. A person may not record or cause to be recorded a long-term agreement in violation of subsection 2. A long-term agreement in violation of subsection 2 recorded in the State does not provide actual or constructive notice against an otherwise bona fide purchaser or creditor. If a long-term agreement is recorded in violation of this subsection, a party with an interest in the residential real estate that is the subject of that long-term agreement may apply to a District Court or Superior Court in the county where the recording occurred for an order declaring the long-term agreement void and of no effect.  
[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

**5. Rights of recovery.** If a long-term agreement is recorded in violation of subsection 4, a party with an interest in the residential real estate that is the subject of the long-term agreement may recover

actual damages, costs and attorney's fees as may be proven against the party who recorded that long-term agreement.

[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

**6. Mechanic's lien.** Nothing in this section affects a lien on residential real estate established under Title 10, section 3251.

[PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 290, §1 (NEW).

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