THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 82

Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, SCHWANK AND RAFFERTY, JANUARY 13, 2017

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JANUARY 13, 2017

AN ACT

- Amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the 1 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in residential real 2 property, repealing provisions relating to home inspections; 3 providing for home inspections; establishing the Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors; providing for licensure of home inspectors and for disciplinary proceedings by the 5 6 Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors; and making an 7 8 appropriation. 9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 10 hereby enacts as follows: 11 Section 1. Chapter 75 heading and sections 7501, 7502, 7503, 7504, 7505, 7506, 7507, 7508, 7509, 7510, 7511, 7512 and 7513 of 12 13 Title 68 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are repealed: 14 [CHAPTER 75 15 HOME INSPECTIONS 16 § 7501. Short title of chapter. 17 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Home 18 Inspection Law. 19 § 7502. Definitions and index of definitions.
- 20 (a) Definitions. -- The following words and phrases when used

- 1 in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this
- 2 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 3 "Home inspection." A noninvasive visual examination of some
- 4 combination of the mechanical, electrical or plumbing systems or
- 5 the structural and essential components of a residential
- 6 dwelling designed to identify material defects in those systems
- 7 and components and performed for a fee in connection with or
- 8 preparation for a proposed or possible residential real estate
- 9 transfer. The term also includes any consultation regarding the
- 10 property that is represented to be a home inspection or that is
- 11 described by any confusingly similar term. The term does not
- 12 include an examination of a single system or component of a
- 13 residential dwelling such as, for example, its electrical or
- 14 plumbing system or its roof. The term also does not include an
- 15 examination that is limited to inspection for or of one or more
- 16 of the following: wood destroying insects, underground tanks and
- 17 wells, septic systems, swimming pools and spas, alarm systems,
- 18 air and water quality, tennis courts and playground equipment,
- 19 pollutants, toxic chemicals and environmental hazards.
- 20 "Home inspection report." A written report on the results of
- 21 a home inspection.
- "Home inspector." An individual who performs a home
- 23 inspection.
- "National home inspectors association." Any national
- 25 association of home inspectors that:
- 26 (1) Is operated on a not-for-profit basis and is not
- 27 operated as a franchise.
- 28 (2) Has members in more than ten states.
- 29 (3) Requires that a person may not become a full member
- 30 unless the person has performed or participated in more than

- 1 100 home inspections and has passed a recognized or
- 2 accredited examination testing knowledge of the proper
- 3 procedures for conducting a home inspection.
- 4 (4) Requires that its members comply with a code of
- 5 conduct and attend continuing professional education classes
- 6 as an ongoing condition of membership.
- 7 (b) Index of other definitions.--The following is a
- 8 nonexclusive list of other definitions applying to this chapter
- 9 and the sections in which they appear:
- 10 "Agent." Section 7102 (relating to definitions).
- "Agreement of transfer." Section 7102 (relating to
- 12 definitions).
- "Buyer." Section 7102 (relating to definitions).
- "Material defect." Section 7102 (relating to definitions).
- 15 "Residential real estate transfer." Section 7103 (relating
- 16 to application of part).
- "Seller." Section 7102 (relating to definitions).
- 18 § 7503. Relationship to other laws.
- 19 (a) General rule. -- Nothing in this chapter shall be
- 20 construed to allow a home inspector who is not registered or
- 21 licensed under one or more of the following laws to perform any
- 22 activity that would constitute the practice of the profession
- 23 regulated by that law:
- 24 (1) The act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as
- 25 the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law.
- 26 (2) The act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537),
- 27 known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.
- 28 (3) The act of March 1, 1974 (P.L.90, No.24), known as
- 29 the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act of 1973.
- 30 (4) The act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281),

- 1 known as the Architects Licensure Law.
- 2 (5) The act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.238, No.43), known as
- 3 the Radon Certification Act.
- 4 (6) The act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as
- 5 the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act.
- 6 (b) Exclusions. -- This chapter shall not:
- 7 (1) Apply to a person registered or licensed under an
- 8 act referred to in subsection (a) when acting pursuant to his
- 9 registration or license.
- 10 (2) Apply to an officer or employee of a municipality or
- 11 local authority when acting in his official capacity.
- 12 (3) Affect the obligations or immunities of a person
- licensed under the act of February 19, 1980 (P.L.15, No.9),
- 14 known as the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act, that
- are imposed or provided by that act or Chapter 73 (relating
- to seller disclosures) when the person is acting pursuant to
- 17 his license.
- 18 (4) Affect the obligations or immunities of a person
- 19 certified under the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act
- 20 when the person is acting pursuant to the person's license.
- 21 § 7504. Duty of care of home inspectors.
- 22 (a) General rule.--It is the duty of a home inspector to
- 23 conduct a home inspection with the degree of care that a
- 24 reasonably prudent home inspector would exercise.
- 25 (b) Standard. -- In ascertaining the degree of care that would
- 26 be exercised by a reasonably prudent home inspector, the court
- 27 shall consider the standards of practice and codes of ethics of
- 28 national home inspector associations.
- 29 § 7505. Consumer remedies.
- 30 (a) General rule. -- The performance of a home inspection is a

- 1 service that is subject to the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.
- 2 1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer
- 3 Protection Law.
- 4 (b) Prohibited acts.--Any of the following acts engaged in
- 5 by a home inspector, an employer of a home inspector or another
- 6 business or person that controls or has a financial interest in
- 7 the employer of a home inspector shall be deemed to be an unfair
- 8 or deceptive act or practice as defined by section 2(4)(i)
- 9 through (xxi) of the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer
- 10 Protection Law:
- 11 (1) Performing or offering to perform for an additional
- 12 fee any repairs to a structure with respect to which the home
- inspector, the employer of the home inspector or such other
- business or person has prepared a home inspection report
- within the preceding 12 months, except that this paragraph
- shall not apply to remediation for radon or wood destroying
- insects.
- 18 (2) Inspecting for a fee any property in which the home
- inspector, the employer of the home inspector or such other
- 20 business or person has any financial interest or any interest
- 21 in the transfer of the property, including without limitation
- receipt of a commission as an agent, unless the financial
- interest or interest in the transfer of the property is
- 24 disclosed in writing to the buyer before the home inspection
- is performed and the buyer signs an acknowledgment of receipt
- of the disclosure.
- 27 (3) Offering or delivering any commission, referral fee
- or kickback to the seller of the inspected property or to an
- agent for either or both of the seller and the buyer for the
- 30 referral of any business to the home inspector, the employer

- of the home inspector or such other business or person.
- 2 (4) Accepting an engagement to perform a home inspection
- 3 or to prepare a home inspection report in which the
- 4 employment itself or the fee payable for the inspection is
- 5 contingent upon the conclusions in the report, preestablished
- or prescribed findings or the closing of the transaction.
- 7 (c) Exception. -- A home warranty company that is affiliated
- 8 with or retains the home inspector does not violate subsection
- 9 (b) if the home warranty company performs repairs pursuant to
- 10 claims made under a home warranty contract.
- 11 (d) Remedies.--In addition to any other remedies available
- 12 under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law or
- 13 other applicable provision of law, the owner of a property on
- 14 which repairs are performed in violation of subsection (b)(1)
- 15 shall be entitled to a full refund of any moneys paid for those
- 16 repairs, and any promissory note or other obligation to pay
- 17 given to the person performing those repairs shall be void.
- 18 § 7506. Required contractual provision regarding home
- inspections.
- 20 Except as provided in this section, a provision of an
- 21 agreement of transfer regarding the right of the buyer to obtain
- 22 a home inspection report and providing for the consequences, if
- 23 any, shall provide that the home inspection be performed by a
- 24 full member in good standing of a national home inspection
- 25 association in accordance with the ethical standards and code of
- 26 conduct or practice of that association, provided that a home
- 27 inspection performed by a person who has not attained full
- 28 membership in a national home inspection association satisfies
- 29 the requirements of this section if the person is:
- 30 (1) licensed or registered as a professional engineer

- 1 under the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the
- 2 Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law;
- 3 (2) licensed or registered under the act of December 14,
- 4 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the Architects Licensure
- 5 Law; or
- 6 (3) supervised by a full member in good standing of a
- 7 national home inspection association who agrees to be
- 8 responsible for the home inspection report by signing the
- 9 report.
- 10 § 7507. Contracts with home inspectors.
- 11 (a) Prohibited provisions. -- The following types of
- 12 provisions in a contract with a home inspector for the
- 13 performance of a home inspection are contrary to public policy
- 14 and shall be void:
- 15 (1) a limitation on the liability of the home inspector
- for gross negligence or willful misconduct;
- 17 (2) a waiver or modification of any provision of this
- 18 chapter.
- 19 (b) Scope of inspection. -- The scope of a home inspection,
- 20 the services to be performed and the systems and conditions to
- 21 be inspected or excluded from inspection may be defined by a
- 22 contract between the home inspector and the client.
- 23 § 7508. Home inspection reports.
- 24 (a) Required contents. -- A home inspection report must be in
- 25 writing and shall include:
- 26 (1) A description of the scope of the inspection,
- 27 including without limitation an identification of the
- 28 structural elements, systems and subsystems covered by the
- 29 report.
- 30 (2) A description of any material defects noted during

the inspection, along with any recommendation that certain
experts be retained to determine the extent of the defects
and any corrective action that should be taken. A "material
defect" as defined in section 7102 (relating to definitions)
that poses an unreasonable risk to people on the property
shall be conspicuously identified as such.

(3) The following statements, set forth conspicuously:

"A home inspection is intended to assist in evaluation of the overall condition of the dwelling. The inspection is based on observation of the visible and apparent condition of the structure and its components on the date of inspection."

"The results of this home inspection are not intended to make any representation regarding the presence or absence of latent or concealed defects that are not reasonably ascertainable in a competently performed home inspection. No warranty or guaranty is expressed or implied."

"If the person conducting your home inspection is not a licensed structural engineer or other professional whose license authorizes the rendering of an opinion as to the structural integrity of a building or its other component parts, you may be advised to seek a professional opinion as to any defects or concerns mentioned in the report."

"This home inspection report is not to be construed as an appraisal and may not be used as such for any purpose."

25 (b) Confidentiality.--Except as otherwise required by law, a
26 home inspector shall not deliver a home inspection report to any
27 person other than the client of the home inspector without the
28 client's consent. The seller shall have the right, upon request,
29 to receive without charge a copy of a home inspection report
30 from the person for whom it was prepared.

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- 1 (c) Repair estimates prohibited. -- A home inspector shall not
- 2 express either orally or in writing an estimate of the cost to
- 3 repair any defect found during a home inspection, except that
- 4 such an estimate may be included in a home inspection report if:
- 5 (1) the report identifies the source of the estimate;
- 6 (2) the estimate is stated as a range of costs; and
- 7 (3) the report states that the parties should consider
- 8 obtaining an estimate from a contractor who performs the type
- 9 of repair involved.
- 10 § 7509. Liability insurance.
- 11 (a) Required insurance. -- A home inspector shall maintain
- 12 insurance against errors and omissions in the performance of a
- 13 home inspection and general liability, with coverages of not
- 14 less than \$100,000 per occurrence and \$500,000 in the aggregate
- 15 and with deductibles of not more than \$2,500.
- 16 (b) Term.--
- 17 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a home
- 18 inspector shall maintain insurance under subsection (a) for
- 19 at least one year after the latest home inspection report the
- 20 home inspector delivers.
- 21 (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a home inspection
- report that was delivered prior to the effective date of this
- 23 section.
- 24 § 7510. Reliance by buyer.
- 25 A buyer shall be entitled to rely in good faith, without
- 26 independent investigation, on a written representation by a home
- 27 inspector that the home inspector is:
- 28 (1) licensed or registered as a professional engineer
- 29 under the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the
- 30 Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law;

- 1 (2) licensed or registered under the act of December 14,
- 2 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the Architects Licensure
- 3 Law; or
- 4 (3) a full member in good standing of a national home
- 5 inspection association.
- 6 § 7511. Penalties.
- 7 (a) Criminal penalty. -- A person who violates section 7509
- 8 (relating to liability insurance) or who provides a false
- 9 representation under section 7510 (relating to reliance by
- 10 buyer) commits a summary offense and, upon conviction thereof
- 11 for a first offense, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not
- 12 exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for not more than three
- 13 months, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense commits
- 14 a misdemeanor of the third degree and, upon conviction thereof,
- 15 shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$2,000 but not
- 16 more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for not less than one year
- 17 but not more than two years, or both.
- 18 (b) Fine. -- A person who violates any provision of section
- 19 7508 (relating to home inspection reports) shall, upon
- 20 conviction in a summary proceeding before a magisterial district
- 21 judge, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$500.
- 22 § 7512. Statute of limitations.
- 23 An action to recover damages arising from a home inspection
- 24 report must be commenced within one year after the date the
- 25 report is delivered.
- 26 § 7513. Engineers and architects.
- Notwithstanding section 7503(b)(1) (relating to relationship
- 28 to other laws), the following sections: 7505 (relating to
- 29 consumer remedies), 7507(a)(1) and (b) (relating to contracts
- 30 with home inspectors), 7508 (relating to home inspection

- 1 reports) and 7509 (relating to liability insurance) shall apply
- 2 to a person licensed or registered as a professional engineer
- 3 under the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the
- 4 Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law, or a
- 5 person licensed or registered under the act of December 14, 1982
- 6 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the Architects Licensure Law, when
- 7 performing a home inspection.]
- 8 Section 2. Title 68 is amended by adding a chapter to read:
- 9 CHAPTER 75A
- 10 <u>HOME INSPECTIONS</u>
- 11 Sec.
- 12 <u>75A01. Scope of chapter.</u>
- 13 75A02. Definitions.
- 14 75A03. Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors.
- 15 75A04. Powers and duties of board.
- 16 <u>75A05. Licensure.</u>
- 17 75A06. Qualifications.
- 18 75A07. Home inspection reports.
- 19 75A08. Liability insurance.
- 20 75A09. Home inspectors in other states, territories or Dominion
- of Canada.
- 22 75A10. Duration of license.
- 23 75A11. Reporting of multiple licensure.
- 24 75A12. Relationship to other laws.
- 25 75A13. Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law
- remedies.
- 27 <u>75A14. Contracts with home inspectors.</u>
- 28 <u>75A15. Fees, fines and civil penalties.</u>
- 29 <u>75A16. Violation.</u>
- 30 75A17. Refusal, suspension or revocation of license.

- 1 75A18. Suspensions and revocations.
- 2 75A19. Temporary and automatic suspensions.
- 3 75A20. Reinstatement of license.
- 4 75A21. Injunction.
- 5 75A22. Subpoenas and oaths.
- 6 75A23. Statute of limitations.
- 7 75A24. Engineers and architects.
- 8 § 75A01. Scope of chapter.
- 9 This chapter relates to home inspections.
- 10 § 75A02. Definitions.
- 11 (a) Definitions. -- The following words and phrases when used
- 12 <u>in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this</u>
- 13 <u>section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:</u>
- 14 <u>"Agent." Any broker, associate broker or salesperson, as</u>
- 15 defined in the act of February 19, 1980 (P.L.15, No.9), known as
- 16 the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act.
- 17 "Agreement of transfer." A contract between a buyer and
- 18 seller setting forth the terms of a residential real estate
- 19 transfer.
- 20 "Applicant." An individual who applies for a license as a
- 21 home inspector.
- 22 "Board." The Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors.
- 23 "Bureau." The Bureau of Professional and Occupational
- 24 Affairs in the Department of State.
- 25 "Buyer." Any person receiving any estate or interest in real
- 26 property in a transfer subject to this part.
- 27 "Client." An individual on whose behalf a contract is
- 28 entered with a licensee under this chapter, or his employer, to
- 29 obtain a home inspection and subsequent home inspection report.
- 30 "Commissioner." The Commissioner of the Bureau of

- 1 Professional and Occupational Affairs in the Department of
- 2 State.
- 3 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.
- 4 <u>"Home inspection." A noninvasive visual examination of some</u>
- 5 combination of the mechanical, electrical or plumbing systems or
- 6 the structural and essential components of a residential
- 7 <u>dwelling designed to identify material defects in those systems</u>
- 8 and components and performed for a fee in connection with or
- 9 preparation for a proposed or possible residential real estate
- 10 transfer. The term includes any consultation regarding the
- 11 property that is represented to be a home inspection or that is
- 12 <u>described by any similar term. The term does not include any of</u>
- 13 the following:
- 14 (1) An examination of a single system or component of a
- 15 <u>residential dwelling such as its electrical or plumbing</u>
- 16 <u>system or its roof.</u>
- 17 (2) An examination that is limited to inspection for or
- 18 of one or more of the following ancillary services:
- 19 (i) Wood-destroying insects.
- 20 (ii) Underground tanks and wells.
- 21 (iii) Septic systems.
- 22 (iv) Swimming pools and spas.
- (v) Alarm systems.
- 24 (vi) Air and water quality.
- 25 (vii) Tennis courts and playground equipment.
- (viii) Pollutants.
- 27 (ix) Toxic chemicals.
- 28 (x) Environmental hazards.
- 29 <u>(xi) Mold.</u>
- 30 (xii) Biological organisms.

- 1 "Home inspection report." A report as required under section
- 2 75A07 (relating to home inspection reports).
- 3 "Home inspector." An individual who performs a home
- 4 <u>inspection and is licensed under this chapter.</u>
- 5 "Material defect." A problem with a residential real
- 6 property or any portion of it that would have a significant
- 7 <u>adverse impact on the value of the property or that involves an</u>
- 8 unreasonable risk to people on the property. The fact that a
- 9 <u>structural element, system or subsystem is near, at or beyond</u>
- 10 the end of the normal useful life of such a structural element,
- 11 <u>system or subsystem is not by itself a material defect.</u>
- 12 <u>"Residential dwelling." A structure consisting of at least</u>
- 13 one but not more than four units, each designed for occupancy by
- 14 a single family, whether the unit or units are occupied or
- 15 unoccupied.
- 16 "Residential real estate transfer." As defined under section
- 17 7103 (relating to application of part).
- 18 "Seller." Any person transferring any estate or interest in
- 19 <u>residential real property in a transfer subject to this part.</u>
- 20 "Wood-destroying insect." The term includes termites,
- 21 carpenter ants, carpenter bees and reinfesting wood boring
- 22 beetles.
- 23 § 75A03. Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors.
- 24 (a) Establishment.--There is established the Pennsylvania
- 25 Board of Home Inspectors within the bureau.
- 26 (b) Composition. -- The board shall consist of the following
- 27 members:
- 28 (1) The commissioner or a designee.
- 29 <u>(2) The following members, who shall be citizens of the</u>
- 30 United States and residents of this Commonwealth, appointed

1	by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate:
2	(i) Two members representing the public at large.
3	(ii) Five professional members. Professional members
4	shall have completed no fewer than 400 fee-paid home
5	inspections in this Commonwealth over the five years
6	immediately preceding appointment to the board. Except as
7	set forth under subsection (f), professional members
8	shall be licensed under this chapter as home inspectors.
9	(3) The Attorney General or a designee.
10	(c) Meeting The board shall meet within 30 days after the
11	appointment of the initial members and shall do all of the
12	<pre>following:</pre>
13	(1) Establish procedures for the board's operation and
14	administration of this chapter.
15	(2) Develop application forms for licensure.
16	(3) Circulate application forms.
17	(4) Create program guidelines to educate the public
18	regarding licensure requirements under this chapter.
19	(d) Term of membership Except as provided under subsection
20	(e), professional and public members shall serve a term of four
21	years or until a successor has been appointed and qualified but
22	in no event longer than six months beyond the four-year period.
23	In the event that a member dies or resigns or otherwise is
24	disqualified during the term of office, a successor shall be
25	appointed in the same way and with the same qualifications and
26	shall hold office for an unexpired term. A professional or
27	<pre>public member shall not be eligible to hold more than two</pre>
28	consecutive terms.
29	(e) Initial appointments For professional and public
30	members first appointed to the board under this chapter, the

- 1 term of office shall be as follows:
- 2 (1) Three members shall serve for a term of four years.
- 3 (2) Two members shall serve for a term of three years.
- 4 (3) Two members shall serve for a term of two years.
- 5 <u>(f) Professional members and first appointments.--</u>
- 6 (1) A professional member initially appointed to the
- 7 board under this chapter need not be licensed at the time of
- 8 appointment, but at the time of appointment must have
- 9 <u>satisfied eligibility requirements for licensure. All</u>
- 10 <u>professional members subsequently appointed shall possess the</u>
- 11 <u>required license.</u>
- 12 (2) A board member that becomes a home inspector shall
- obtain the requisite license within six months of the date
- the initial licenses are issued. If a board member does not
- obtain the requisite license within six months of the
- 16 effective date of this section, the board member shall be
- 17 considered to have resigned from the board on that date.
- 18 (q) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the board shall
- 19 constitute a quorum. A member may not be counted as part of a
- 20 guorum or vote on any issue unless the member is physically in
- 21 attendance at the meeting.
- 22 (h) Chairperson. -- The board shall select annually a
- 23 <u>chairperson from among its members.</u>
- 24 (i) Expenses. -- With the exception of the commissioner and
- 25 the Attorney General, each member of the board shall receive \$60
- 26 per diem when actually attending to the work of the board. A
- 27 <u>member shall also receive the amount of reasonable travel, hotel</u>
- 28 and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the
- 29 <u>member's duties in accordance with Commonwealth regulations.</u>
- 30 (j) Forfeiture. -- A professional or public member who fails

- 1 to attend three meetings in 18 months shall forfeit the member's
- 2 <u>seat unless the commissioner, upon written request from the</u>
- 3 member, finds that the member should be excused from a meeting
- 4 because of illness or the death of a family member.
- 5 (k) Training seminars. -- A public member who fails to attend
- 6 two consecutive statutorily mandated training seminars in
- 7 accordance with section 813(e) of the act of April 9, 1929
- 8 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929,
- 9 shall forfeit the member's seat unless the commissioner, upon
- 10 written request from the public member, finds that the public
- 11 member should be excused from a meeting because of illness or
- 12 the death of a family member.
- (1) Frequency of meetings. -- The board shall meet at least
- 14 four times per year in the City of Harrisburg and at additional
- 15 times as may be necessary to conduct the business of the board.
- 16 § 75A04. Powers and duties of board.
- 17 The board shall have the following powers and duties:
- 18 (1) To provide for and regulate the licensing of
- individuals engaged in home inspection.
- 20 (2) To issue licenses, renew licenses, reinstate
- 21 <u>licenses or refuse to renew, suspend and revoke licenses as</u>
- 22 provided under this chapter.
- 23 (3) To administer and enforce the provisions of this
- chapter.
- 25 (4) To review applications for licensure and to
- determine the eligibility of an individual applying for
- 27 licensure.
- 28 (5) To promote educational initiatives to protect
- 29 <u>consumers who contract for home inspection services.</u>
- 30 (6) To promulgate and enforce regulations, not

	1	inconsistent	with	this	chapter,	as	necessary	only	v to	carry	7
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- 2 out the provisions of this chapter. This paragraph includes
- 3 the setting of fees and the adoption of standards for
- 4 <u>certification of home inspectors. Regulations shall be</u>
- 5 <u>adopted in conformity with the provisions of the act of July</u>
- 6 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the Commonwealth
- 7 Documents Law, and the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633,
- 8 No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.
- 9 (7) To keep minutes and records of all proceedings.
- 10 (8) To submit annually to the department an estimate of
- financial requirements of the board for its administrative,
- 12 <u>legal and other expenses.</u>
- 13 (9) To submit annually a report to the Consumer
- 14 Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate
- and the Professional Licensure Committee of the House of
- 16 Representatives. The report shall include a description of
- 17 the types of complaints received, status of cases, the action
- 18 which has been taken and the length of time from initial
- 19 complaint to final resolution.
- 20 (10) To submit annually to the Appropriations Committee
- of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House
- of Representatives, 15 days after the Governor has submitted
- a budget to the General Assembly, a copy of the budget
- 24 request for the upcoming fiscal year which the board
- 25 <u>previously submitted to the department.</u>
- 26 (11) To prescribe the form of licenses, applications and
- 27 <u>other documents that are required for home inspectors to be</u>
- 28 licensed under this chapter.
- 29 <u>(12) To grant, deny, suspend and revoke approval of</u>
- 30 examinations and courses of study regarding home inspections,

- 1 <u>establish standards for continuing home inspection education</u>,
- 2 <u>including the subject matter and content of courses of study</u>
- 3 <u>and the selection of instructors and approve other equivalent</u>
- 4 <u>educational programs</u>, and establish procedures for the
- 5 <u>issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion</u>
- 6 <u>of these programs.</u>
- 7 (13) To establish and maintain a current list of home
- 8 <u>inspectors who are licensed. This list shall be available for</u>
- 9 <u>public inspection, including on a publicly accessible</u>
- 10 Internet website.
- 11 (14) To establish continuing education requirements of
- not less than 32 hours biennially for licensees in accordance
- 13 <u>with this chapter.</u>
- 14 (15) To require all fee-paid home inspections to be
- conducted in accordance with the standards of practice
- 16 established by the board.
- 17 (16) To adopt standards of practice for licensees.
- 18 <u>§ 75A05. Licensure.</u>
- 19 (a) General rule. -- An individual may not perform home
- 20 inspections, offer himself for employment as an individual who
- 21 performs home inspections or hold himself out as a home
- 22 inspector unless licensed by the board or as otherwise
- 23 consistent with this chapter.
- 24 (b) Business entities. -- An individual, corporation,
- 25 partnership, firm or other entity shall not employ an individual
- 26 to perform a home inspection or allow or direct an individual to
- 27 perform a home inspection unless the individual is licensed
- 28 under this chapter.
- 29 § 75A06. Qualifications.
- 30 (a) General rule. -- To be eligible to apply for licensure, an

- 1 applicant must fulfill all of the following requirements:
- 2 (1) Be of good moral character.
- 3 (2) Be 18 years of age or older.
- 4 (3) Have successfully completed high school or its
- 5 <u>equivalent.</u>
- 6 (4) Satisfactorily complete a board-approved training
- 7 program or course of study involving the performance of home
- 8 <u>inspections; such study program shall be for no less than 120</u>
- 9 <u>hours of instruction and include no less than 40 hours of</u>
- 10 <u>actual in-field training.</u>
- 11 (5) Satisfactorily complete a board-approved examination
- 12 <u>that is designed to test competence in home inspection</u>
- 13 practices. The board shall contract with a professional
- 14 testing organization for the examination of qualified
- 15 <u>applicants for licensure. All written, oral and practical</u>
- examinations shall be prepared and administered by a
- 17 qualified and approved professional testing organization in
- 18 the manner prescribed for written examinations by section
- 19 812.1 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as
- The Administrative Code of 1929.
- 21 (6) Pay the fee set by the board.
- 22 (b) Ancillary services. -- In the event that an ancillary
- 23 service is performed by a licensed home inspector, the inspector
- 24 shall be licensed or certified to perform that service as
- 25 required by State regulation. Inspectors found to be performing
- 26 ancillary inspections for the home-buying public without the
- 27 required license or certification shall be subject to discipline
- 28 by the board.
- 29 § 75A07. Home inspection reports.
- 30 (a) Required contents. -- A home inspection report must be in

1 writing and shall include:

2 (1) A description of the scope of the inspection,
3 including, without limitation, an identification of the
4 structural elements, systems and subsystems of the
5 residential dwelling covered by the report.

(2) A description of any material defects noted during the inspection, along with any recommendation that certain experts be retained to determine the extent of the defects and any corrective action that should be taken. A material defect that poses an unreasonable risk to people on the property shall be conspicuously identified as such.

A home inspection is intended to assist in evaluation of the overall condition of the residential dwelling.

The inspection is based on observation of the visible and apparent condition of the residential dwelling and its components on the date of inspection.

The results of this home inspection are not intended to make any representation regarding the presence or absence of latent or concealed defects that are not reasonably ascertainable in a competently performed home inspection. No warranty or guaranty is expressed or implied.

If the person conducting your home inspection is not

a licensed structural engineer or other professional whose license authorizes the rendering of an opinion as to the structural integrity of a residential dwelling or its other component parts, you may be advised to seek a professional opinion as to any defects or concerns mentioned in the report.

- This home inspection report is not to be construed as
- an appraisal and may not be used as such for any
- 3 <u>purpose</u>.
- 4 (b) Confidentiality. -- Except as otherwise required by law, a
- 5 home inspector shall not deliver a home inspection report to any
- 6 person other than the client of the home inspector without the
- 7 <u>client's consent.</u>
- 8 (c) Repair estimates prohibited. -- A home inspector shall not
- 9 express either orally or in writing an estimate of the cost to
- 10 repair any defect found during a home inspection, except that
- 11 such an estimate may be included in a home inspection report if
- 12 the home inspector is so qualified and:
- 13 (1) the report identifies the source of the estimate;
- 14 (2) the estimate is stated as a range of costs from
- 15 verifiable price sources; and
- 16 (3) the report states that the parties should consider
- obtaining an estimate from a contractor who performs the type
- 18 of repair involved.
- 19 § 75A08. Liability insurance.
- 20 (a) Required insurance. -- A home inspector shall maintain
- 21 professional liability insurance in the performance of a home
- 22 inspection, with coverages of not less than \$100,000 per
- 23 occurrence and \$500,000 in the aggregate.
- 24 (b) Term.--
- 25 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a home
- inspector shall maintain insurance under subsection (a) for
- 27 <u>at least one year after the latest home inspection report was</u>
- delivered.
- 29 (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a home inspection
- 30 report that was delivered prior to December 20, 2001.

- 1 § 75A09. Home inspectors in other states, territories or
- 2 <u>Dominion of Canada.</u>
- 3 The board may issue a license to an individual who has
- 4 <u>licensure or its equivalent as a home inspector in any other</u>
- 5 state or territory of the United States or the Dominion of
- 6 Canada if all of the following requirements are met:
- 7 (1) The other jurisdiction grants the same privileges to
- 8 <u>licensees of Pennsylvania as the Commonwealth grants to</u>
- 9 <u>licensees of that other jurisdiction.</u>
- 10 (2) The person is licensed or its equivalent in the
- other jurisdiction and has successfully passed the
- 12 <u>examination</u>.
- 13 (3) The licensing requirements of the other jurisdiction
- 14 <u>are substantially similar to the licensing requirements of</u>
- this chapter.
- 16 (4) The person provides a notarized statement that the
- 17 person has studied, is familiar with and will abide by the
- 18 provisions of this chapter and the administrative regulations
- 19 promulgated by the board.
- 20 (5) The individual pays the required fee.
- 21 § 75A10. Duration of license.
- 22 (a) Duration of license.--A license issued under this
- 23 chapter shall be on a biennial basis. The biennial expiration
- 24 date shall be established by the board. Application for renewal
- 25 of a license shall biennially be forwarded to an individual
- 26 holding a current license prior to the expiration date of the
- 27 current renewal biennium.
- 28 (b) Inactive status. -- An individual licensed under this
- 29 <u>chapter may request an application for inactive status. The</u>
- 30 application form may be completed and returned to the board.

- 1 Upon receipt of an application, the individual shall be
- 2 maintained on inactive status without fee and shall be entitled
- 3 to apply for a licensure renewal at any time after complying
- 4 with the requirements for continuing education. An individual
- 5 who requests that the board activate the individual's license
- 6 and who has been on inactive status for a period of three
- 7 consecutive years shall, prior to receiving an active license,
- 8 satisfy the requirements of the board's regulations for ensuring
- 9 <u>continued competence</u>, <u>including holding current certification</u>
- 10 and remitting the required fee. The board shall promulgate
- 11 regulations to carry out the provisions of this subsection.
- 12 § 75A11. Reporting of multiple licensure.
- A home inspector who is also licensed to perform home
- 14 <u>inspections in any other state</u>, territory or possession of the
- 15 <u>United States or any other country shall report this information</u>
- 16 to the board on the biennial registration application. A
- 17 licensee shall report any disciplinary action regarding a
- 18 license taken in another state, territory, possession of the
- 19 United States or any other country to the board on the biennial
- 20 registration application or within 90 days of final disposition,
- 21 whichever is sooner. Multiple licensure shall be noted by the
- 22 board on the home inspector's record, and the state, territory,
- 23 possession of the United States or country shall be notified of
- 24 any disciplinary actions taken by the board against the licensee
- 25 in this Commonwealth.
- 26 § 75A12. Relationship to other laws.
- 27 <u>(a) General rule.--Nothing in this chapter shall be</u>
- 28 construed to allow a home inspector who is not registered or
- 29 <u>licensed under one or more of the following laws to perform any</u>
- 30 activity that would constitute the practice of the profession

- 1 regulated by that law:
- 2 (1) The act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as
- 3 the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law.
- 4 (2) The act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537),
- 5 <u>known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.</u>
- 6 (3) The act of March 1, 1974 (P.L.90, No.24), known as
- 7 the Pennsylvania Pesticide Control Act of 1973.
- 8 (4) The act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281),
- 9 <u>known as the Architects Licensure Law.</u>
- 10 (5) The act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.238, No.43), known as
- 11 <u>the Radon Certification Act.</u>
- 12 (6) The act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as
- the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act.
- 14 <u>(b) Exclusions.--This chapter shall not:</u>
- (1) Apply to a person registered or licensed under an
- act referred to in subsection (a) when acting pursuant to his
- 17 registration or license.
- 18 (2) Apply to an officer or employee of a municipality or
- 19 local authority when acting in his official capacity.
- 20 (3) Affect the obligations or immunities of a person
- licensed under the act of February 19, 1980 (P.L.15, No.9),
- 22 known as the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act, that
- are imposed or provided by that act or Chapter 73 (relating
- 24 to seller disclosures) when the person is acting pursuant to
- 25 his license.
- 26 (4) Affect the obligations or immunities of a person
- 27 <u>certified under the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act</u>
- when the person is acting pursuant to the person's license.
- 29 <u>§ 75A13. Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law</u>
- remedies.

- 1 (a) General rule. -- The performance of a home inspection is a
- 2 service that is subject to the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.
- 3 1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer
- 4 Protection Law.
- 5 (b) Prohibited acts. -- Any of the following acts engaged in
- 6 by a home inspector, an employer of a home inspector or another
- 7 <u>business or person that controls or has a financial interest in</u>
- 8 the employer of a home inspector shall be deemed to be an unfair
- 9 or deceptive act or practice as defined by section 2(4) of the
- 10 Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law:
- 11 (1) Performing or offering to perform for an additional
- 12 <u>fee any repairs to a residential dwelling with respect to</u>
- which the home inspector, the employer of the home inspector
- or such other business or person has prepared a home
- inspection report within the preceding 12 months, except that
- this paragraph shall not apply to remediation for radon or
- 17 wood destroying insects.
- 18 (2) Inspecting for a fee any property in which the home
- inspector, the employer of the home inspector or such other
- 20 business or person has any financial interest or any interest
- 21 <u>in the transfer of the property, including, without</u>
- 22 limitation, receipt of a commission as an agent, unless the
- 23 financial interest or interest in the transfer of the
- 24 property is disclosed in writing to the buyer before the home
- 25 inspection is performed and the buyer signs an acknowledgment
- of receipt of the disclosure.
- 27 (3) Offering or delivering any commission, referral fee
- or kickback to the seller of the inspected property or to an
- agent for either or both of the seller and the buyer for the
- 30 referral of any business to the home inspector, the employer

- 1 of the home inspector or such other business or person.
- 2 (4) Accepting an engagement to perform a home inspection
- 3 or to prepare a home inspection report in which the
- 4 <u>employment itself or the fee payable for the inspection is</u>
- 5 <u>contingent upon the conclusions in the report, preestablished</u>
- or prescribed findings or the closing of the transaction.
- 7 (c) Exception. -- A home warranty company that is affiliated
- 8 with or retains the home inspector does not violate subsection
- 9 (b) if the home warranty company performs repairs pursuant to
- 10 claims made under a home warranty contract and discloses its
- 11 affiliation.
- 12 (d) Consumer remedies. -- In addition to any other remedies
- 13 <u>available under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer</u>
- 14 Protection Law or other applicable provision of law, the owner
- 15 of a property on which repairs are performed in violation of
- 16 <u>subsection</u> (b) (1) <u>shall be entitled to a full refund of any</u>
- 17 money paid for those repairs, and any promissory note or other
- 18 obligation to pay given to the person performing those repairs
- 19 shall be void.
- 20 § 75A14. Contracts with home inspectors.
- 21 (a) Prohibited provisions. -- Any of the following types of
- 22 provisions in a contract with a home inspector for the
- 23 performance of a home inspection are contrary to public policy
- 24 and shall be void:
- 25 (1) A limitation on the liability of the home inspector
- for gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 27 (2) A waiver or modification of any provision of this
- chapter.
- 29 (b) Scope of inspection. -- The scope of a home inspection,
- 30 the services to be performed and the systems and conditions to

- 1 <u>be inspected or excluded from inspection may be defined by a</u>
- 2 <u>contract between the home inspector and the client.</u>
- 3 (c) Required contractual provision regarding home
- 4 <u>inspections.--</u>
- 5 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), a provision
- of an agreement of transfer regarding the right of the buyer
- 7 <u>to obtain a home inspection report and providing for the</u>
- 8 consequences, if any, shall provide that the home inspection
- 9 <u>be performed by a licensed home inspector.</u>
- 10 (2) A home inspection satisfies the requirements of this
- 11 <u>section if the person is:</u>
- 12 <u>(i) licensed or registered as a professional</u>
- 13 <u>engineer under the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367),</u>
- 14 <u>known as the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist</u>
- 15 Registration Law; or
- 16 <u>(ii) licensed or registered under the act of</u>
- 17 December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the
- 18 Architects Licensure Law.
- 19 § 75A15. Fees, fines and civil penalties.
- 20 (a) Fees.--All fees required under this chapter shall be
- 21 fixed by the board by regulation and shall be subject to the act
- 22 of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory
- 23 Review Act. If the revenues raised by the fees, fines and civil
- 24 penalties imposed under this chapter are not sufficient to meet
- 25 expenditures over a two-year period, the board shall increase
- 26 those fees by regulation so that projected revenues will meet or
- 27 <u>exceed projected expenditures.</u>
- 28 (b) Deposit of fees. -- All fees, fines and civil penalties
- 29 imposed in accordance with this chapter shall be paid into the
- 30 Professional Licensure Augmentation Account.

- 1 (c) Permitted fees.--The board may charge a fee, as set by
- 2 the board by regulation, for licensure, for renewing licensure
- 3 and for other services of the board as permitted under this
- 4 <u>chapter or by regulation.</u>
- 5 § 75A16. Violation.
- 6 (a) Criminal penalty. -- A person violating a provision of
- 7 this chapter commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and
- 8 shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more
- 9 than \$2,500 or to imprisonment for not more than six months for
- 10 the first violation. A person convicted of a second or
- 11 <u>subsequent violation shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not</u>
- 12 more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for not less than six months
- 13 <u>or more than one year, or both.</u>
- (b) Civil penalty. -- In addition to any other civil remedy or
- 15 criminal penalty provided for under this chapter, the board, by
- 16 <u>a vote of the majority of the maximum number of the authorized</u>
- 17 membership of the board as provided by law or by a vote of the
- 18 majority of the duly qualified and confirmed membership or a
- 19 minimum of five members, whichever is greater, may levy a civil
- 20 penalty of up to \$10,000 on any of the following:
- 21 (1) A home inspector who violates a provision of this
- 22 <u>chapter</u>.
- 23 (2) An individual who performs home inspections without
- 24 <u>a license</u>, as required by this chapter.
- 25 (c) Procedure. -- The board shall levy the civil penalty under
- 26 subsection (b) only after affording the accused the opportunity
- 27 for a hearing as provided under 2 Pa.C.S. (relating to
- 28 administrative law and procedure).
- 29 § 75A17. Refusal, suspension or revocation of license.
- 30 (a) General rule. -- The board shall have the authority to

Τ.	refuse, suspend of revoke a ficense of discipline for unficensed
2	activity in a case where the board finds any of the following:
3	(1) The licensee is negligent or incompetent in
4	performing a home inspection.
5	(2) The licensee has willfully or repeatedly violated
6	any of the provisions of this chapter or a regulation of the
7	board.
8	(3) The licensee or individual has committed fraud or
9	deceit in any of the following:
0	(i) Performing home inspections.
1	(ii) Securing licensure or certification.
_2	(iii) Advertising.
_3	(iv) Performing or offering to perform home
4	inspections for compensation without being licensed as a
.5	home inspector and without being exempt from licensure
6	under this chapter.
_7	(v) Presenting as the individual's own license, the
8 .	license of another.
_9	(vi) Intentionally giving false or materially
20	misleading information to the board or to a board or
21	staff member in connection with a licensing matter.
22	(vii) Using an expired, suspended, revoked or
23	otherwise restricted license.
24	(viii) Performing or offering to perform for an
25	additional fee any repairs to a residential dwelling with
26	respect to which the home inspector, the employer of the
27	home inspector or other business or person affiliated
28	with the home inspector has prepared a home inspection
29	report within the preceding 12 months, except that this
30	subparagraph shall not apply to remediation for radon or

1	wood-destroying insects.
2	(ix) Participation with any real estate broker or
3	agent, directly or indirectly, in an action in which the
4	home inspector pays or receives a direct or indirect
5	consideration for receiving leads toward providing home
6	inspection services.
7	(4) The licensee has been convicted of a felony or a
8	crime of moral turpitude.
9	(5) The licensee has had his license suspended or
10	revoked or has received other disciplinary action by the
11	proper licensing authority in another state, territory,
12	possession of the United States or any other country.
13	(6) The licensee falsely advertised or made misleading,
14	deceptive, untrue or fraudulent material representations
15	regarding licensure.
16	(b) Acts authorizedIf the board finds that the license of
	(b) Acts authorizedIf the board finds that the license of a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under
16	
16 17	a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under
16 17 18	a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:
16 17 18	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:</pre>
16 17 18 19 20	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following: (1) Deny the application for a license. (2) Administer a public reprimand.</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	<pre>a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following:</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following: (1) Deny the application for a license. (2) Administer a public reprimand. (3) Revoke, suspend, limit or otherwise restrict a license. The board shall require an individual whose license has been suspended or revoked to return the license in the manner as the board directs. (4) Suspend enforcement of its finding and place a
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following: (1) Deny the application for a license. (2) Administer a public reprimand. (3) Revoke, suspend, limit or otherwise restrict a license. The board shall require an individual whose license has been suspended or revoked to return the license in the manner as the board directs. (4) Suspend enforcement of its finding and place a licensee on probation with the right to vacate the
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	a home inspector may be refused, revoked or suspended under subsection (a), the board may do any of the following: (1) Deny the application for a license. (2) Administer a public reprimand. (3) Revoke, suspend, limit or otherwise restrict a license. The board shall require an individual whose license has been suspended or revoked to return the license in the manner as the board directs. (4) Suspend enforcement of its finding and place a licensee on probation with the right to vacate the probationary order for noncompliance.

- 1 § 75A18. Suspensions and revocations.
- 2 Disciplinary action shall be imposed only in accordance with
- 3 the regulations of the board and only by majority vote of the
- 4 members of the board after a hearing. An action of the board
- 5 shall be taken subject to the right of notice, hearing and
- 6 <u>adjudication</u>, and the right of appeal, in accordance with 2
- 7 Pa.C.S. (relating to administrative law and procedure). The
- 8 board, by majority action, may reissue a license which has been
- 9 <u>suspended</u>. If a license has been revoked, the board shall
- 10 reissue a license only under section 75A20 (relating to
- 11 <u>reinstatement of license</u>).
- 12 § 75A19. Temporary and automatic suspensions.
- 13 <u>(a) Temporary suspensions.--</u>
- 14 (1) A license issued under this chapter may be
- 15 <u>temporarily suspended under circumstances as determined by</u>
- the board to be an immediate and clear danger to the public
- 17 health and safety. The board shall issue an order to that
- 18 effect without a hearing, but upon due notice to the licensee
- 19 concerned, at his last known address, which shall include a
- 20 written statement of all allegations against the licensee.
- The board shall thereupon commence formal action to suspend,
- 22 revoke or restrict the license of a person concerned as
- otherwise provided for in this chapter. All actions shall be
- 24 taken promptly and without delay.
- 25 (2) Within 30 days following the issuance of an order
- temporarily suspending a license, the board shall conduct or
- 27 cause to be conducted a preliminary hearing to determine
- 28 whether there is a prima facie case supporting the
- 29 suspension. The licensee whose license has been temporarily
- 30 suspended may be present at the preliminary hearing and may

- 1 be represented by counsel, cross-examine witnesses, inspect
- 2 physical evidence, call witnesses, offer evidence and
- 3 testimony and make a record of the proceedings.
- 4 (3) If it is determined that there is not a prima facie
- 5 <u>case, the suspended license shall be immediately restored.</u>
- 6 The temporary suspension shall remain in effect until vacated
- 7 by the board, but in no event longer than 180 days.
- 8 (b) Automatic suspension. --
- 9 (1) A license issued under this chapter shall
- 10 automatically be suspended upon the legal commitment to an
- institution of a licensee because of mental incompetency from
- any cause upon filing with the board a certified copy of such
- 13 commitment, conviction of a felony under the act of April 14,
- 14 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance,
- Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or conviction of an offense
- under the laws of another jurisdiction, which if committed in
- 17 Pennsylvania, would be a felony under The Controlled
- 18 Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- 19 (2) Automatic suspension under this subsection shall not
- 20 be stayed pending any appeal of a conviction. Restoration of
- 21 <u>such license shall be made as provided in this chapter in the</u>
- 22 case of revocation or suspension of such license.
- 23 (3) As used in this subsection, the term "conviction"
- shall include a judgment, an admission of quilt or a plea of
- 25 nolo contendere.
- 26 (c) Notice of violations.--
- 27 (1) An attorney responsible for representing the
- 28 Commonwealth in disciplinary matters before the board shall
- 29 notify the board immediately upon receiving notification of
- 30 an alleged violation of this chapter.

- 1 (2) The board shall maintain current records of all
- 2 reports of alleged violations and periodically review the
- 3 records for the purpose of determining that each alleged
- 4 <u>violation has been resolved in a timely manner.</u>
- 5 § 75A20. Reinstatement of license.
- 6 <u>Unless ordered to do so by the Commonwealth Court or an</u>
- 7 appeal from the Commonwealth Court, the board shall not
- 8 reinstate the license of an individual which has been revoked.
- 9 An individual whose license has been revoked may reapply for a
- 10 license after a period of at least five years but must meet all
- 11 of the licensing requirements of this chapter.
- 12 § 75A21. Injunction.
- 13 Whenever, in the judgment of the board, a person has engaged
- 14 <u>in an act or practice which is regulated under this chapter and</u>
- 15 which constitutes or will constitute a violation of this
- 16 chapter, the board or its agents may make application to the
- 17 appropriate court for an order enjoining the act or practice,
- 18 and, upon a showing by the board that the person has engaged or
- 19 is about to engage in the act or practice, an injunction,
- 20 restraining order or other order as may be appropriate shall be
- 21 granted by the court. The remedy by injunction shall be in
- 22 addition to any other civil or criminal prosecution and
- 23 punishment.
- 24 § 75A22. Subpoenas and oaths.
- 25 <u>(a) Authority granted.--The board shall have the authority</u>
- 26 to issue subpoenas, upon application of an attorney responsible
- 27 <u>for representing the Commonwealth in disciplinary matters before</u>
- 28 the board, for the purpose of investigating alleged violations
- 29 of this chapter or regulations of the board. The board shall
- 30 have the power to subpoena witnesses, to administer oaths, to

- 1 examine witnesses and to take testimony or compel the production
- 2 of books, records, papers and documents as it may deem necessary
- 3 or proper in and pertinent to any proceeding, investigation or
- 4 hearing held or had by the board. The board is authorized to
- 5 apply to the Commonwealth Court to enforce its subpoenas. The
- 6 court may impose limitations on the scope of the subpoena as is
- 7 <u>necessary to prevent unnecessary intrusion into client</u>
- 8 confidential information.
- 9 (b) Disciplinary matters. -- An attorney responsible for
- 10 representing the Commonwealth in disciplinary matters before the
- 11 board shall maintain current records of all reported alleged
- 12 <u>violations and periodically review the records for the purpose</u>
- 13 <u>of determining that each alleged violation has been resolved in</u>
- 14 <u>a timely manner.</u>
- 15 § 75A23. Statute of limitations.
- An action to recover damages arising from a home inspection
- 17 report must be commenced within one year after the date the
- 18 report is delivered, regardless of when the material defect was
- 19 discovered.
- 20 § 75A24. Engineers and architects.
- Notwithstanding section 75A12(b)(1) (relating to relationship
- 22 to other laws), the following sections shall apply to a person
- 23 licensed or registered as a professional engineer under the act
- 24 of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the Engineer, Land
- 25 Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law, or a person licensed or
- 26 registered under the act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227,
- 27 No.281), known as the Architects Licensure Law, when performing
- 28 a home inspection:
- 29 <u>(1) Section 75A07 (relating to home inspection reports).</u>
- 30 (2) Section 75A08 (relating to liability insurance).

- 1 (3) Section 75A13 (relating to Unfair Trade Practices
- 2 and Consumer Protection Law remedies).
- 3 (4) Section 75A14(a)(1) and (b) (relating to contracts
- 4 <u>with home inspectors).</u>
- 5 Section 3. Within 18 months of the effective date of this
- 6 section, the Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors shall
- 7 promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of 68 Pa.C.S.
- 8 Ch. 75A.
- 9 Section 4. The provisions of 68 Pa.C.S. Ch. 75A requiring
- 10 the licensure of home inspectors shall not apply until
- 11 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin that the regulations
- 12 required by section 3 of this act have been adopted and are in
- 13 effect.
- 14 Section 5. For one year from the publication in the
- 15 Pennsylvania Bulletin that the regulations required under
- 16 section 3 of this act have been adopted and are in effect, an
- 17 applicant who meets all of the requirements of former 68 Pa.C.S.
- 18 Ch. 75 and this section may be licensed as a home inspector
- 19 without having to complete a board-approved training program or
- 20 course of study involving the performance of home inspections.
- 21 The applicant must:
- 22 (1) Be at least 18 years of age.
- 23 (2) Have passed a written examination to test competence
- in home inspection practice.
- 25 (3) Have completed no less than 250 fee-paid inspections
- over the three years immediately preceding publication in the
- 27 Pennsylvania Bulletin that the regulations required under
- section 3 have been adopted and are in effect.
- 29 (4) Show proof of professional liability insurance
- 30 consistent with 68 Pa.C.S. § 75A08.

- 1 Section 6. The sum of \$85,000, or as much thereof as may be
- 2 necessary, is hereby appropriated from the Professional
- 3 Licensure Augmentation Account to the Department of State for
- 4 the payment of costs associated with processing licenses and
- 5 renewing licenses, for the operation of the Pennsylvania Board
- 6 of Home Inspectors and for other costs associated with the
- 7 implementation of 68 Pa.C.S. Ch. 75A. The appropriation shall be
- 8 repaid by the board within three years of the beginning of
- 9 issuance of licenses by the board.
- 10 Section 7. The addition of 68 Pa.C.S. Ch. 75A is a
- 11 continuation of former 68 Pa.C.S. Ch. 75. Except as otherwise
- 12 provided under Chapter 75A, all activities initiated under
- 13 former Chapter 75 shall continue and remain in full force and
- 14 effect and may be completed under Chapter 75A. Orders,
- 15 regulations, rules and decisions which were made under former
- 16 Chapter 75 and which are in effect on the effective date of this
- 17 section shall remain in full force and effect until revoked,
- 18 vacated or modified under Chapter 75A. Contracts, obligations
- 19 and collective bargaining agreements entered into under former
- 20 Chapter 75 are not affected nor impaired by the repeal of former
- 21 Chapter 75.
- 22 Section 8. This act shall take effect in 60 days.