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State of New Hampshire

Banking Department

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October 30, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Banking Department (NHBD) respectfully requests authority to continue its membership and participation in the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), Vendor #170735, in the amount of \$10,105, effective upon Governor and Council approval **retroactive** for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. **100% Other Funds.**

Funds are available for payment of these membership dues from the account entitled Organizational Dues, 100% Other Funds, Bank Exams and Assessment as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
#010-07200-20460000-026-500251	Dues	\$10,105.00

EXPLANATION

The CSBS assists the 50 state banking departments in many areas of operation, regulation, and education. These include, but are not limited to, pooling multi-state resources, coordinating supervisory issues, tracking federal bank regulatory proposals and rule-making activities, and filing comments on behalf of the state banking departments. Also, CSBS provides quality education for state examiners and other regulatory personnel within the NHBD. The educational opportunities offered by CSBS are uniquely tailored to the specific needs of the state banking departments and are not replicated by the federal agencies.

The NHBD's involvement has been very positive and has greatly assisted the agency in meeting its stated objectives for the state banking system and New Hampshire consumers.

The following are the standard organization dues and membership questions and answers for Governor and Council approval.

- How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

CSBS was founded in 1902. CSBS is the professional association of state officials responsible for chartering, regulating, and supervising the nation's state-chartered banks and state-licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks.

Its mission is to maintain the state system as the charter of choice for financial institutions, protect and advance our nation's dual banking system, and promote efficient and effective supervision. It represents the interests of all state bank supervisors before U.S. Congress and acts as a liaison between state agencies and the other banking regulatory agencies. NHBD has been a member since 1914.

In addition to the services it provides to support the regulation of banks, CSBS supports the regulation of consumer credit companies, especially the mortgage banker, broker and servicer companies licensed by the NHBD. CSBS offers invaluable training to the NHBD Consumer Credit Division (CCD) and supports the positions of regulators with Congress in the consumer finance area.

In 2008, CSBS created the Nationwide Multi-State Licensing System (NMLS), which is the sole system of licensure of state-licensed mortgage companies for 58 state agencies and the sole system of licensure of state-licensed mortgage loan originators for 59 state and territorial agencies. Over half of the states also manage additional license types through the System for the businesses they regulate.

The NMLS is also the system of record for the registration of depositories, subsidiaries, and mortgage loan originators of the depositories pursuant to the S.A.F.E Mortgage Licensing Act.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

CSBS is the only organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of the state banking charter.

In the Consumer Credit arena, there are three much smaller and much less influential organizations, American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators (AARMR), National Association of Consumer Credit Administrators (NACCA) and Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA) that promote states' interests in specific areas of financial industry regulation. Dues to these bodies are minimal and allow us to obtain some training and to easily communicate with other states on specific regulatory problems in industries such as money transmitter organizations and consumer finance/automobile lending companies.

3. How many other states belong to this organization, and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

CSBS is the nationwide organization of financial regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NHBD is the sole member from the State of New Hampshire due to the purpose of this organization.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)

CSBS membership is on a fiscal year basis (July 1 – June 30); for “Supervisory Dues”, annual dues are calculated based on the portion of each state banking agency’s budget dedicated to the regulation of insured depository institutions (banks only) at 1% and then indexed to an inflation calculation each year..

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

Membership allows interaction with other state and federal agencies and to have representation in challenging situations. CSBS provides educational/developmental opportunities, organizes communication sessions for the collective group of members, represents the interests of state financial regulators to federal and state policymakers and regulatory agencies, and offers accreditation programs. Membership promotes greater collaboration with our sister states. Also, serving on CSBS sponsored committees gives us insight into emerging issues and problem company concerns, which helps keep small states as New Hampshire informed.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Educational/research materials include conferences, schools and programs, informational webinars, teleconferences, numerous publications, press releases, and facts/figures. Throughout the year, CSBS holds numerous teleconferences where members/participants phone in from around the country; discussion topics include circumstances that collectively impact the regulatory system and allow participants to share and gain important information. There are some training costs that CSBS membership does not cover – these are more fully described in the following paragraphs.

CSBS offers an online training module at a maximum annual cost to NHBD of \$1,000; since this tool’s introduction in 2010, NHBD examiners have completed hundreds of online modules. Research materials are provided for each training module free of charge. NHBD participated in online webinars for the fiscal year.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

The answer to this question is currently “no” relative to NHBD’s Banking Division.

CCD regulates non-bank mortgage companies (brokers, bankers and servicers). In 2009, the Federal S.A.F.E. Act passed and required that all mortgage loan

originators (MLOs) had to be licensed in the states where they originate mortgages. If a state failed to provide a licensing scheme, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [whose duties have now been taken over by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)] would license and regulate that state's MLOs. New Hampshire participates, along with all the other states, in the CSBS developed Nationwide Multi-State Licensing System (NMLS) to license mortgage companies and originators. The states were also required by the S.A.F.E Act to have a system of regulation and examination in place that is to be judged by the CFPB as "adequate" for regulation of this industry. A benchmark of "adequacy" is "accreditation" of the agency by CSBS. We need to be members of CSBS in order to keep this accreditation.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership-supported trips.

Generally, no; however, the membership fee allows participation in some CSBS-sponsored classes where the tuition and travel costs are covered by CSBS. The membership fee allowed four NHBD Examiners to attend the CSBS Intermediate IT and Cybersecurity training in August 2019 in Philadelphia, PA. Also, NHBD personnel generally attend district meetings (held twice annually, typically at an out-of-state location), and may participate in other conferences or training events at various locations nationwide.

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Bank Examiner, Director of Trust Supervision, and Banking Division examiners are directly involved with CSBS. The Director of Consumer Credit and the Licensing Supervisor of the CCD are also directly involved with CSBS. Both CCD examiners and licensing personnel participate in training opportunities from CSBS. The Director of CCD is a member of the Multi-State Mortgage Committee and several working group committees, and a Senior CCD Examiner is a member of an examiner committee. The Director of Trust Supervision is a committee member of the Non-Depository Trust Working Group. Members of our legal team occasionally serve on working group committees. One of our CCD senior examiners is a member of the State Examination Systems and another CCD senior examiner is on the NMLS National Test Question Development and Maintenance and the Education Initiative workgroup.

CSBS is governed by a set of corporate bylaws and a Board of Directors, which is composed of 20 supervisors. The individual states are represented on the Board by six elected Officers and District Chairmen from five geographic districts and appointed committee chairs and two at large members. The Board of Directors has supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the Conference, its affiliates, its

committees and publications, and shall determine its policies and actively prosecute its objectives.

Regulator members include all 50 state regulatory departments plus those of several territories. Regulators are the voting members of CSBS.

The CSBS Bankers Advisory Board provides the Board of Directors with the industry's perspective and works within the banking industry to promote common goals. The chairman of the Bankers Advisory Board is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

Affiliated Entities:

In 1984, CSBS helped create the Education Foundation of State Bank Supervisors (EFSBS). The membership of EFSBS is the same as CSBS, and the two entities interact extensively. The purposes of EFSBS are to fund and to direct the education and training efforts of the professional development staff of CSBS.

In 2006, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators formed the State Regulatory Registry, LLC, a limited liability corporation, to oversee the development and operations of a nationwide licensing system and database for the residential mortgage industry. The SRR Board of Managers reports to the CSBS Board of Directors and is responsible for all policy matters governing NMLS.

Standing Committees:

CSBS has many standing committees, including but not limited to, the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Legislative Committee, Regulatory Committee, Personnel and Compensation Committee, and State Supervisory Processes Committee.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

To effectively fulfill its mission, NHBD must continue to interact and partner with other regulators at the state and federal levels. This is a key and lasting characteristic of the financial institution's regulatory system. CSBS facilitates this interaction relative to banks; the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS) accomplishes a similar mission relative to credit unions. Regulation and supervision are not stagnant – it evolves and changes, often-times to a significant degree. Consistency is imperative.

Discontinuing NHBD's membership would result in the following, detrimental impacts:

- ability to defend NHBD's interests, particularly on a national scale, would be significantly reduced;

- loss of mechanism for collective communications with our peers (regulators from other states);
- loss of centralized information source regarding current and emerging regulatory issues; and
- loss of training/developmental/information sharing opportunities.

In summary, NHBD would undoubtedly become more isolated and would lose efficiencies and effectiveness in its ability to regulate its chartered and licensed institutions.

A copy of the invoice is attached for your review.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald H. Little Digitally signed by Gerald H. Little
Date: 2020.11.03 14:32:16 -05'00'

Gerald H. Little
Bank Commissioner

GHL/mj
Enclosure