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### **State regulators fine Indiana firm that is told to quit making sales**

An Indiana manufacturer was fined \$500 on Thursday and ordered by the board that oversees the manufactured housing business in West Virginia to cease making online sales into the Mountain State.

The action was taken against Home Nation of Goshen, Ind., for operating a dealership without a license. The company was not licensed by the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board nor with the Contractors' Licensing Board, according to Labor Commissioner Mitch Woodrum.

It was unclear whether the company had delivered the home into West Virginia, but it was advertising sales to the Mountain State online, according to information provided to the board.

A second company improperly operating an unlicensed retail center at Lavalette, Wayne County, and two contractors, were reprimanded, but not fined, for operating without proper licenses.

Fines totaling \$4,000 were levied by the State Board against two other contractors, two retail centers and a manufacturer. TNT Mobile Home Sets received two reprimands and will have to re-coup the recovery fund \$2,000 for work performed to bring one of its consumer's home/site into compliance.

Two other retailers and a manufacturer were fined \$500 each for various violations and the last company was given a reprimand by the State Board.

Woodrum also introduced two new manufactured housing inspectors to the board. Because of chronic financial problems within state government, the two men will be working only 60 percent of their time inspecting homes.

The two are Joey Harless, who is stationed in southern West Virginia's Summers County; and Wade Alexander, who is based in the north in Barbour County. Woodrum also introduced a new staff member from the licensing section. She is Isabella Kerby-Ballinger.

A total of 19 companies were cited for failure to file quarterly reports on the quantity of business they have done in the state for the previous three months. Four of the companies were repeat offenders. The board levies fines (\$50 or \$25) against each for the violations.

The State Board re-issued a retailer license to New Concept Homes LLC of Charles Town, Jefferson County. The company had allowed its license to lapse on June 30.

Three contractors were also licensed to work in West Virginia: Stephen Moon, doing business as Moon's Mobile Home Movers of Dublin, Va.; John Thomas, doing business as Thomas' Concrete of Grayson, Ky.; and Blevins and Associates LLC of Tazewell, Tenn.

Two submittals were made to the recovery fund for work left uncompleted on homes in Lorado, Logan County, and Harts, Lincoln County, by a southern West Virginia retailer that has closed its doors. The recovery fund was created by the industry to finish work started by a company that went out of business before the work was completed. The recovery fund now totals \$1.496 million.

The board did not set a date for its next meeting, but Woodrum said it would likely come in March, 2017.

After the board meeting, Woodrum hosted a surprise birthday party for Jack Albert of Charleston, who just celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 16. Albert is both the senior member of the six-member regulatory board in terms of age and service longevity.