

March 29, 2018

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New manufactured housing retailer licensed in Moorefield

CHARLESTON -- The manufactured housing industry got some good news Thursday. The state board that oversees the industry licensed a new retailer in the Eastern Panhandle.

The West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board issued the license to Debra H. Crimes of Moorefield. She will be doing business as Preferred Properties Manufactured Housing.

Several retailers have closed in recent years because of the recession, but it has been some time since a new retailer was licensed, which the industry hopes reflects resurgence of demand for affordable housing.

Three contractors were also licensed. They are DRB Contracting of Liberty in Jackson County; and companies in Ohio and South Carolina.

The State Board fined 20 companies, five of whom are repeat offenders, for failing to file reports of their quarterly business activities in the state.

The State Board also heard a brief report, but took no action, on a new law effective June 7 that will allow the sales of manufactured homes four years old or older without extending warranties, if the homes are advertised as not being sold for human habitation and the retailer and purchaser sign an agreement with such a stipulation.

The board learned the industry has \$1.58 million in a fund established to complete work on homes when the contracting companies has gone out of business.

The next meeting of the State Board was set for 10 a.m. June 27.

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