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### **State regulators act on repeal issue**

CHARLESTON – Manufactured housing dealers won't have to fax subcontractor agreements to state regulators before contactors can work on factory-built housing, the board that oversees the industry decided Wednesday.

The West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board (State Board) voted on procedural changes required when regulatory law changed last month.

The changes allow a contractor to enter into a subcontracting agreement with a dealer to work on manufactured housing.

The Legislature this year, at the request of the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc., repealed a law enacted year that banned subcontracts and required contractors to obtain two licenses to work on manufactured housing.

The board Wednesday discussed the proper forms to be provided to dealers so they can enter into subcontracting agreements once again.

Until last year, the dealers were required to keep subcontracting agreements in their customer files, where state inspectors could examine them. The State Board voted to reinstate that procedure with minor changes.

The Division of Labor wanted to have the agreements faxed because many dealers were not properly filing the contracts in their files, officials told the State Board.

But board member Steve Solomon said faxing would be cumbersome for both the DOL and dealers. Solomon, the only dealer on the six-member board, also said he opposed the industry's move this year to repeal the dual licensing.

The State Board also voted to have a starting date and the cost of the project included in the reports

Mitch Woodrum, director of the manufactured housing section of the DOL, said the new forms should be prepared for distribution to dealers by May.

DOL staff also said the State Board's next meeting would be reserved primarily for an open discussion with industry representative on points the industry has raised with regulators. That meeting will be 10 a.m. May 8 in Charleston.

Those issues include whether the State Board can meet informally in "work-study" sessions with the industry, whether regulatory board members can attend industry functions, and the scope of regulatory material that should be released to the industry.

In other action, the State Board approved the licensing application for one company as a contractor. It is GPS Construction of Reedsville, Preston County.