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Quarterly reports may draw State Board attention; Home Expo licensed

CHARLESTON -- West Virginia manufactured housing regulators said Thursday they may increase penalties against companies that fail to properly document their work activities for the state Division of Labor.

At the same time, the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board approved a license for an Arizona firm the State Board previously refused to allow to operate in the state.

The State Board requires companies to file quarterly reports that detail their business activities for the previous three months.

At Thursday's meeting, State Board members noted that nine of the companies that failed to file the latest quarterly report also did not file for the previous reporting period. Their penalty is to pay a fine totaling \$75.

State Board Chairman and Deputy Labor Commissioner John R. Junkins said the board might want to consider increasing the penalties to ensure the reports are timely filed. Mitch Woodrum, director of the manufactured housing section of the DOL, said he would determine whether the board can increase the fines administratively or whether such a change must be approved by the Legislature.

"We have a lot of repeat offenders," Woodrum said. The companies, however, cannot renew their licenses with the state until all fines are paid and their records are updated.

Those failing to file the quarterly reports for at least two periods included: STI Inc., Jones Foundation Service, Highland Mobile Home Services Inc., Stanley Set-Up Inc., Watterson's Mobile Home Movers, A&B General Contracting, Chapman Electric, Combs Masonry & Stucco LLC, and Moon's Mobile Home Movers.

The State Board approved a license to Alta Cima Corp., doing business as Factory Expo Home Centers, of Chandler, Ariz. The company's sales center is in Indiana. Previously, the rejection was over concerns the company would not have a sales location in West Virginia.

But the board was told the company had agreed to changes in its application to ensure the protection of consumers in the state and the license was issued.

In other action, the State Board:

--Imposed a \$500 fine on a defunct manufacturer from Pennsylvania on a consumer complaint. The state completed work on the home at a cost of \$1,850, which is paid for by a fund voluntarily set up by the industry from its fines and other fees for such matters. That recovery fund totals \$1.5 million.

--Junkins said the right of a contractor to voluntarily do work for which it would not be paid, and would not be specifically licensed to do, would be determined on a case-by-case basis if a complaint reached the board over such work. At issue was a question raised by a transportation company that wanted to assist homeowners in setting up their own homes.

--Issued reprimands to two contractors for performing work without proper licenses.

--Issued a contractor license to A&M Construction Inc. of Madison and a manufacturer license to Giles Industries Inc. of New Tazewell, Tenn.

--Set its next meeting date for 10 a.m. June 28.

