

The Oklahoma Association of REALTORS® is concerned about an anonymous email being sent to real estate licensees across the state that contains misinformation about OAR-supported legislation.

The email from "[okrealestatelegislation.com](http://okrealestatelegislation.com)" contains misleading statements about Senate Bill 602 by Sen. Brian Bingman, R-Sapulpa. The bill deals with the issuance of real estate licenses to those convicted of certain felonies.

Below are claims made in the anonymous email followed by responses from OAR:

- **Anonymous Email:** "When you next renew your Oklahoma real estate license, your fingerprints will be required. At least they will if OAR-sponsored Senate Bill 602 passes."
- **OAR Response:** **There is nothing in SB602 that requires additional fingerprinting or background checks of new applicants, who are already subject to these requirements under current law. SB602 does not require fingerprint or background checks for renewal applicants.**
- **Anonymous Email:** "The above bills (SB602) will require the applicant or licensee to incur the costs associated with the national criminal history check. Currently the fingerprint background check will cost you \$41 plus fees associated with taking your fingerprints every time you renew your license. In addition the bill requires the OREC to revoke the license of anyone who is convicted of a felony, in the past or the future."
- **OAR Response:** **Applicants are already subject to a national criminal history check. SB602 will not impose this requirement on current licensees, nor are there any provisions in the bill to revoke any existing real estate license.**

OAR and the Oklahoma Real Estate Commission jointly support the following provisions for SB602 and companion bill HB1821 by Rep. Steve Martin, R-Bartlesville. OAR is working with Sen. Bingman and Rep. Martin on the following clarification to the language as the bill moves through the legislative process:

- Any applicant convicted of a felony involving forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, fraud, or any other similar offense or offenses would be disallowed from obtaining a real estate license within ten (10) years of the completion of any criminal sentence, including parole and probation.
- Any person convicted of any crimes defined in Oklahoma Statutes Title 21, Chapter 1, Section 13.1 would be disallowed from obtaining a real estate license within twenty (20) years of the completion of any criminal sentence, including parole and probation. These crimes are known as Oklahoma's "deadly sins" for which the offender must serve 85% of any criminal sentence. These crimes include murder, rape and crimes against children.
- For all other felony convictions, any person convicted of a felony would be disallowed from obtaining a real estate license within five (5) years of the completion of any criminal sentence, including parole and probation.

OAR will continue to monitor this bill to ensure all the language and provisions we've agreed on with the OREC remain intact, and we'll continue to keep you posted as the bill moves through the legislative process.

