

I am writing in response to HB1191 regarding the background checks and license law with auctioneers. Less than half of the states in the United States have auctioneer's licenses. I personally am licensed in 8 states and over the years many of those states have discontinued their auctioneer's licenses because of low numbers and the cost to maintain the board and licenses, it's not effective or efficient. Also, with the advent of 85% of all auctioneers in the U.S. since 2020, are now Online only auctions/auctioneers, the auctioneer's license doesn't relate or relevant. With the advent of the internet and the boom of online auctions, especially since the 2020 pandemic, more people are doing their own auctions, created auction platforms, or merged to create large auction companies that are online only. There are so many Online platforms that people and auctioneer's use that do not require a license or are not regulated such as, Hemmings Motor news is doing Online auctions, Bring a Trailer, K-Bid, and others. It is this that many states are discontinuing auctioneer's license, also. How can you regulate Ebay and other similar platforms in all states, with multiple sellers and bidders. It's just not possible. Technology and the changing auction atmosphere, as made it difficult and unnecessary for auction personal property license law.

I do agree, that auctioneer's that sell real estate, should work with or be a licensed broker or broker associate. I am a broker in SD and MN and Feel that this is important when dealing with potential million dollar deals apposed to an auctioneer that sells personal property. I also think that auctioneer's that sell personal property being licensed isn't needed when NO ONE else has a license and able to sell with various platforms. I am not sure if a clerk license is needed as with the trend of the majority of auctions being online.

Also, with the advent of many online auctions and platforms, more and more states are discontinuing their license law and education requirements. It just isn't fair to have license law for auctioneer's while ever other state and everyone doesn't regulate online sales. It seems to penalize auctioneers. Ohio, just dropped their Bond requirement for auctioneers and working on not having license law. They have the most auctioneers in the US. They do still require those selling real estate to have a real estate license.

Therefore, I think that auctioneer's that sell real estate at auction should have a Broker's license or work with a broker. But the personal property auctioneer license should be discontinued.

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