

**APPRAISALS AND APPRAISERS**

**AMENDMENTS**

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Gerry A. Adair**

**This act modifies the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Act and the Property Tax Act. The act amends sections relating to the authority of appraisers in order to comply with federal guidelines. The act makes technical changes to appraisal provisions of the Property Tax Act to reflect changes made in appraiser terminology.**

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**17-17-2**, as last amended by Chapter 133, Laws of Utah 2000

**59-2-701**, as last amended by Chapter 117, Laws of Utah 1999

**59-2-702**, as last amended by Chapter 5, Laws of Utah 1991

**59-2-703**, as last amended by Chapter 173, Laws of Utah 1994

**61-2b-10**, as last amended by Chapter 117, Laws of Utah 1999

**61-2b-13**, as last amended by Chapter 117, Laws of Utah 1999

**61-2b-17**, as last amended by Chapter 117, Laws of Utah 1999

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **17-17-2** is amended to read:

**17-17-2. Assessor to be state qualified -- Vacancy -- Filling vacancy.**

(1) In addition to the requirements of Section 17-16-1, any person elected to the office of county assessor after November 1, 1993, shall be a [~~state-registered,~~] state-licensed[;] or state-certified appraiser as defined in Title 61, Chapter 2b, prior to the expiration of [~~24~~] 36 months from the day on which his term of office begins.

(2) (a) If an assessor fails to meet the requirement of this section, the assessor's office is automatically vacant.



28 (b) (i) In the event of a vacancy under this section, the county executive shall fill the  
29 vacancy in the manner provided for in Sections 17-53-104 and 20A-1-508. However, a person  
30 selected to fill the vacancy must be a ~~[state-registered,]~~ state-licensed[;] or state-certified appraiser  
31 within six months after assuming the office of county assessor.

32 (ii) If a ~~[state-registered,]~~ state-licensed[;] or state-certified appraiser cannot be found to  
33 fill a vacancy which resulted from the requirements of this section, the county executive may  
34 contract with a ~~[state-registered,]~~ state-licensed[;] or state-certified appraiser from outside the  
35 county to fill the remainder of the term in the office of county assessor.

36 Section 2. Section **59-2-701** is amended to read:

37 **59-2-701. Appraisal by certified or licensed appraisers only -- Certification of elected**  
38 **county assessors.**

39 (1) Any person performing an appraisal for purposes of establishing fair market value of  
40 real estate or real property for the assessment roll shall be the holder of an appraiser's certificate[;]  
41 or license~~[, or registration]~~ issued by the Division of Real Estate under Title 61, Chapter 2b, except  
42 uncertified[;] or unlicensed~~[, or unregistered]~~ appraiser trainees may, for up to ~~[24]~~ 36 months after  
43 the date of hire or appointment as an appraiser trainee, appraise property under the direction of a  
44 holder of an appraiser's certificate or ~~[registration]~~ license issued by the division.

45 (2) The limitations on appraisal authority under Subsections 61-2b-10(1) and (2) and  
46 Section 61-2b-13 do not apply to a person performing an appraisal for purposes of establishing fair  
47 market value for the assessment roll.

48 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) The commission may prescribe additional requirements for any person performing  
49 an appraisal for purposes of establishing fair market value for the assessment roll.

50 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) The commission may, by rule, establish qualifications for personal property  
51 appraisers exempt from ~~[registration]~~ licensure under Title 61, Chapter 2b, Real Estate Appraiser  
52 ~~[Registration]~~ Licensing and Certification Act.

53 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) It is the duty of a county assessor, as established in Section 17-17-1, to ensure that  
54 the assessor's office is in compliance with this section and any additional rules or requirements for  
55 property appraisers established by the commission.

56 Section 3. Section **59-2-702** is amended to read:

57 **59-2-702. Education and training of appraisers -- Continuing education for**  
58 **appraisers and county assessors.**

59 (1) The commission shall conduct, at its own expense, a program of education and training  
60 of appraisal personnel preparatory to the examination of applicants for appraisers' and assessors'  
61 [~~registration and~~] certification or licensure required by Section 59-2-701.

62 (2) To ensure that the assessment of property will be performed in a professional manner  
63 by competent personnel, meeting specified professional qualifications, the commission shall  
64 conduct a continuing program of in-service education and training for county assessors and  
65 property appraisers in the principles and practices of assessment and appraisal of property. For this  
66 purpose the commission may cooperate with educational institutions, local, regional, state, or  
67 national assessors' organizations, and with other appropriate professional organizations. The  
68 commission may reimburse the participation expenses incurred by assessors and other employees  
69 of the state or its subdivisions whose attendance at in-service training programs is approved by the  
70 commission.

71 Section 4. Section **59-2-703** is amended to read:

72 **59-2-703. Commission to assist county assessors -- Appraisers provided upon request**  
73 **-- Costs of services -- Contingency fee arrangements prohibited.**

74 (1) The commission shall, upon request and pursuant to mutual agreement, provide county  
75 assessors with technical assistance and appraisal aid. It shall provide [~~registered or~~] certified or  
76 licensed appraisers who, upon request of the county assessor and pursuant to mutual agreement,  
77 shall perform appraisals of property and other technical services as needed by the county assessor.  
78 The costs of these services shall be computed by the commission upon the basis of the number of  
79 days of services rendered. Each county shall pay to the commission 50% of the cost of the services  
80 which they receive.

81 (2) (a) Both the commission and counties may contract with a private firm or an individual  
82 to conduct appraisals.

83 (b) Notwithstanding Title 63, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management  
84 Act, the commission and counties may disclose the name of the taxpayer and the taxpayer's address  
85 to the contract appraiser. A private appraiser is subject to the confidentiality requirements and  
86 penalty provisions provided in Title 63, Chapter 2, Part 8, [~~Government Records Access and~~  
87 ~~Management Act~~] Remedies.

88 (c) Neither the commission nor a county may contract with a private firm or an individual  
89 under a contingency fee arrangement to assess property or prosecute or defend an appeal. An

90 appraisal that has been prepared on a contingency fee basis may not be allowed in any proceeding  
91 before a county board of equalization or the commission.

92 Section 5. Section **61-2b-10** is amended to read:

93 **61-2b-10. State-licensed appraiser -- Authority and qualifications.**

94 (1) A state-licensed appraiser is authorized to appraise [~~all types of real property in this~~  
95 ~~state if the appraisal: (a) is not performed in conjunction with a federally related transaction; or~~  
96 ~~(b) does not exceed the~~] complex and noncomplex 1-4 family residential units in this state having  
97 a transaction value permitted under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement  
98 Act of 1989, and related federal regulations.

99 (2) A state-licensed appraiser is also authorized to appraise vacant or unimproved land  
99a h HAVING A TRANSACTION VALUE PERMITTED UNDER THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS REFORM,  
99b RECOVERY, AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1989, AND RELATED FEDERAL REGULATIONS h that  
100 is utilized for 1-4 family purposes or for which the highest and best use is 1-4 family purposes and  
101 subdivisions for which a development analysis/appraisal is not necessary.

102 [~~(2)~~] (3) A state-licensed appraiser may not issue a certified appraisal report.

103 [~~(3)~~] (4) To qualify as a state-licensed appraiser, an applicant must:

- 104 (a) be of good moral character;
- 105 (b) pass the licensing examination with a satisfactory score as determined by the board;
- 106 (c) successfully complete not less than 90 classroom hours in courses of study approved  
107 by the board that relate to:
  - 108 (i) real estate appraisal;
  - 109 (ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and
  - 110 (iii) ethical rules to be observed by a real estate appraiser as required by Section 61-2b-27;

111 and

112 (d) possess the minimum number of hours of experience in real property appraisal as  
113 established by rule.

114 [~~(4)~~] (5) The courses of study under Subsection (3)(b) shall be conducted by:

- 115 (a) an accredited university, college, or junior college;
- 116 (b) an approved appraisal society, institute, or association; or
- 117 (c) such other school as the board may approve.

118 [~~(5)~~] (6) The board shall require and pass upon proof necessary to determine the honesty,  
119 competency, integrity, and truthfulness of each applicant.

120 Section 6. Section **61-2b-13** is amended to read:

121 **61-2b-13. State-certified appraisers -- Authority.**

122 (1) A state-certified residential appraiser is authorized to appraise all types of real estate  
123 which a state-licensed appraiser is authorized to appraise. [~~In addition, a~~]

124 (2) A state-certified residential appraiser is also authorized to appraise 1-4 unit residential  
125 real estate [in federally related transactions so long as net income capitalization analysis is not  
126 required by the terms of the assignment. A state-certified residential appraiser is also authorized  
127 to appraise building lots, vacant land, and subdivisions in federally related transactions so long as  
128 discounted cash flow analysis is not required by the terms of the assignment] without regard to  
129 transaction value or complexity.

130 (3) A state-certified residential appraiser is not authorized to appraise subdivisions for  
131 which a development analysis/appraisal is necessary.

132 [~~(2)~~] (4) A state-certified general appraiser is authorized to appraise all types of real estate  
133 and real property.

134 Section 7. Section **61-2b-17** is amended to read:

135 **61-2b-17. State-certified, state-licensed, and state-registered appraisers --**  
136 **Restrictions on use of terms -- Conduct prohibited.**

137 (1) (a) The terms "state-certified general appraiser," "state-certified residential appraiser,"  
138 "state-licensed appraiser," "state-registered appraiser," and "senior appraiser" may only be used to  
139 refer to an individual who is certified, licensed, or registered under this chapter and may not be  
140 used following, or immediately in connection with, the name or signature of a firm, partnership,  
141 corporation, or group, or in any manner that it might be interpreted as referring to a firm,  
142 partnership, corporation, group, or to anyone other than the individual who is certified, registered,  
143 or licensed under this chapter.

144 (b) This requirement shall not be construed to prevent a state-certified general appraiser  
145 from signing an appraisal report on behalf of a corporation, partnership, firm, or group practice if  
146 it is clear that only the individual is certified and that the corporation, partnership, firm, or group  
147 practice is not.

148 (c) Except as provided in Section 61-2b-25, no certificate, registration, or license may be  
149 issued under the provisions of this chapter to a corporation, partnership, firm, or group.

150 (2) (a) No person other than a state-certified general appraiser or state-certified residential  
151 appraiser, may assume or use any title, designation, or abbreviation likely to create the impression

152 of certification in this state as a real estate appraiser.

153 (b) No person other than a state-licensed appraiser may assume or use any title,  
154 designation, or abbreviation likely to create the impression of licensure in this state as a real estate  
155 appraiser.

156 (3) (a) Only an individual who has qualified under the certification requirements of  
157 Sections 61-2b-14 and 61-2b-15 is authorized to prepare and sign a certified appraisal report  
158 relating to real estate or real property in this state.

159 (b) If a certified appraisal report is prepared and signed by a state-certified residential  
160 appraiser, the certified appraisal report shall state, immediately following the signature on the  
161 report, "State-Certified Residential Appraiser."

162 (c) If a certified appraisal report is prepared and signed by a state-certified general  
163 appraiser, the certified appraisal report shall state, immediately following the signature on the  
164 report, "State-Certified General Appraiser."

165 (d) An appraisal report prepared by a state-licensed appraiser shall state, immediately  
166 following the signature on the report, "[~~State-licensed~~] State-Licensed Appraiser[;]." [~~along with~~  
167 ~~a disclosure that the appraisal may not qualify for federally related transactions.~~]

168 (e) When signing a certified appraisal report, a state-certified appraiser shall also place on  
169 the report, immediately below his signature, a seal on the report showing his certificate number  
170 and its expiration date.

171 (f) A state-certified residential appraiser may not prepare a certified appraisal report  
172 outside his area of expertise as defined in Section 61-2b-13. However, a state-certified residential  
173 appraiser may prepare an appraisal report for any type property for which a state-licensed appraiser  
174 is authorized to appraise under Section 61-2b-10.

175 (g) A state-licensed appraiser or state-registered appraiser who assisted in the preparation  
176 of a certified appraisal report is authorized to cosign the certified appraisal report.

177 (4) A person who has not qualified under either Section 61-2b-14 or 61-2b-15 may not  
178 describe or refer to any appraisal or appraisal report relating to real estate or real property in this  
179 state by the terms "certified appraisal" or "certified appraisal report."

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**

**as of 1-24-01 6:45 AM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**