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For more information, contact Andy Gallagher (304) 415-4187

State Board renews 110 retailer licenses and approves 14 new dealers

CHARLESTON – State regulators renewed licenses Tuesday for 110 manufactured housing dealers in West Virginia, which is down 26.3 percent from the number licensed last year.

However, 11 of those 29 that were not renewed were taken over earlier by Clayton Homes, Inc., of Maryville, TN, and were licensed as new operations under the Clayton name.

The West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board (State Board) issued licenses to 14 new retail dealers.

In all Tuesday, the State Board renewed 295 licenses for dealers, manufacturers and contractors for the 2010-11 fiscal year, a figure that is 20.3 percent less than in 2009-10. It also issued a total of 40 new licenses in all categories, while not renewing 60 licenses.

The fiscal year started July 1 and the new licenses were mailed Tuesday.

The director of the manufactured housing division for the state Division of Labor said any downswing reflects financial woes.

“I believe the economy is the main reason,” said Mitch Woodrum, director of the manufactured housing division. “I would think even in this economy that true affordable housing would flourish, however I believe the lack of financing is hindering it.”

The State Board renewed licenses for 34 manufacturers and 151 contractors to do business in West Virginia. A dozen manufacturers and 19 contractors did not renew. The State Board also issued licenses to eight new manufacturers and 18 new contractors.

The State Board set its next meeting for Sept. 16 in Charleston.