



**MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

Division of Banking & Financial Institutions

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Misty Ann Giles, Director
Melanie Hall, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montana Escrow Business Licensees

FROM: Chris Romano, Non-Depository Bureau Chief
Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions

RE: Annual Financial Statement and Escrow Activities Report

DATE: February 23, 2021

Background

The [Regulation of Escrow Businesses Act](#) (Act) was amended during the 2019 Regular Session by House Bill 108. Specifically, [House Bill 108](#) amended Section 32-7-115(5), MCA, which requires an escrow businesses' financial statement to be reviewed by an independent public accountant every odd-numbered year. Previously, escrow licensees were required to have an independent public accountant review their financial statement annually. This financial statement is contained within the division's Annual Financial Statement and Escrow Activities Report (Report) which is due annually by April 30th.

Instructions for Completing the Report Due by April 30, 2021

Since the Report due by April 30, 2021 is being filed for 2020 (even numbered year) escrow businesses are NOT required to have an independent public accountant review and certify their financial statement. However, the Division of Banking and Financial Institutions does require that escrow business licensees complete the financial statement in the Report. Please be advised that the report due next year by April 30, 2022 will be filed for 2021 (odd numbered year) and therefore will require the independent public accountant to certify that the financial statement has been reviewed.

Questions

Questions regarding this memo should be directed to Non-Depository Bureau Chief Chris Romano via email (cromano@mt.gov) or phone (406-841-2928).