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State to hold forum on mortgage lending

(Portland) — The Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services is seeking public input on concerns about the mortgage lending industry.

DCBS' Division of Finance and Corporate Securities is holding its first-ever Mortgage Lending Forum Monday, May 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon State Office Building in Portland.

Cory Streisinger, DCBS director, and David Tatman, administrator of the Division of Finance and Corporate Securities, will lead the town hall-style meeting, during which people will have the opportunity to speak about issues or trends in the mortgage lending industry that affect consumers.

Consumer complaints about the industry are on the rise: The Division of Finance and Corporate Securities and the Oregon Department of Justice received more than 300 complaints about mortgage lenders in 2005, an increase of about 30 percent from 2004.

“The mortgage lending industry is a key part of our economy, and we believe the majority of the organizations and professionals in it are upstanding,” Streisinger said. “But we want to know about consumers’ concerns so that we can do a better job of addressing areas where there may be problems.”

The Division of Finance and Corporate Securities regulates mortgage brokers and bankers by enforcing the Oregon Mortgage Lending Law. The division also has a mortgage lending consumer information program that provides fraud-prevention and consumer-protection information to the public, homeowners, and homebuyers. The division’s mortgage lending staff will be available at the forum to answer questions from consumers.

To RSVP for the event, contact Berri Leslie at berri.leslie@state.or.us or (503) 947-7478. You also can register online at: http://dfcs.oregon.gov/news_releases/mortgage_forum_registration_info.html.

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