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Realtor's license classes packed

United Press International
 AUSTIN, Texas — A law doubling the educational requirement for obtaining a Texas real estate license has swamped private and public schools with last minute students and prompted a horde of license applications filed with the Real Estate Commission.

Effective Jan. 1, Texans must have 180 classroom hours of real estate study to obtain a license. The requirement now is for only 90 hours. "That's what brought the rush on," said Camilla Shannon of the Real Estate Commission. "They're enrolling by the hundreds, and they're applying for licenses by the thousands."

She is not exaggerating. **AMERICAN COLLEGE OF Real Estate**, the largest proprietary school in Texas teaching real estate classes, offers evidence of the overflow of would-be real estate agents. "Our enrollment increased like you wouldn't believe," said Steve Mettling. "We went from about 800 enrollments a month to over 2,200 a month. It started gradually in June. It exploded after Labor Day. We had to double up our classes and tap every one of our some 200 instructors to teach our classes."

Schools in most of the state's major cities are operating day and night, seven days a week, to allow students to finish the 90-hour educational requirement and apply for their licenses before the Jan. 1 law takes effect.

"Everybody is trying to get under the deadline," said Harold German, owner and operator of the Dyer School of Real Estate in San Antonio, which specializes in preparing stu-

dents for the license test and does not offer classroom hours which count toward the educational requirement.

"IF YOU GET your hours and file an application before Dec. 31, then you have a whole year to take your exam and that's where the gold rush comes in."

While private schools have handled the brunt of the rush of real estate students, public colleges also are involved.

"Gracious, it is something," said Quanita Wallace, an officer in the community relations department at Houston Community College. "All of our semester real estate courses filled up and we started having six-week quick courses. All the 152 quick courses are completely full, averaging 30 people."

The new educational requirements, adopted by the Legislature in 1975 as part of a Real Estate License Act, also require brokers after Jan. 1 to have 225 hours of classroom instruction rather than 185.

The requirements increase each year, until by 1985 real estate agents will have to have the equivalent of a junior college diploma in order to qualify for a license.

"WHEN THE LAW went into effect in 1975, the University of Texas was about the only school I know of that offered a degree in real estate. Now most major universities have a degree in real estate and there has been a tremendous step up in real estate courses offered in junior and senior colleges," said Gerhardt Schulle, lobbyist for the Texas Real Estate Association.

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Merry Golds?

Colder weather moves into the area, scenes like this will be common on the Texas A&M University campus. Even with the relatively cool weather the Bryan-College Station area has experienced recently, these and other flowers are all hearty at the the Texas A&M flower gardens on Houston street.

Laws threaten pricing codes

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — The new electronic checkouts that ping, click and drill to total your grocery bill as the coded items pass a scanner may answer questions of business just as they are coming into widespread use. About 300 supermarkets have installed the checkouts, which cost about \$200,000 per store. But legislation has been introduced in 30 states to require that prices continue to be marked on individual items.

The Office of Technology Assessment, a congressional agency that studies on various issues, said such legislation has "rendered the future of the electronic checkout uncertain at best."

The legislation has been prompted by fears that the devices will in an end to the current practice of marking the price on each item, either on the package or bag of food. The scanners read, electronically, a code printed on each package, and then the computer adjusts the price that corresponds to the symbol.

Most groceries now are manufactured with the printed codes. When the scanner changes the computer can be adjusted to register the current price instead of the coded one when the item passes its laser scanner and is being bagged. Theoretically, the scanner would let supermarkets do away with the price on the shelf below each group of groceries. Surveys have indicated consumer resistance to the idea and many now employing the devices still put prices on each item.

The report said that eliminating individual pricing "opens up possibilities for automated or semi-automated stocking of supermarket shelves, but requiring price marking" could prevent a test of a system being introduced.

Requiring individual price marking also could adversely affect the sale of "high-volume, low-price discount or warehouse-type food stores," the report said.

The report said an end to price marking would threaten some 1.7 million employees currently holding clerk and stock jobs in the nation's grocery stores, but said the impact could be lessened through job training.

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