



## Four state banking departments renew accreditation

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**WASHINGTON, DC** - The Conference of State Bank Supervisors has reaccredited state banking departments in Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee, and Texas. CSBS is the national association of state officials responsible for chartering, regulating and supervising the nation's 6,951 state-chartered commercial and savings banks and 419 state-licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks.

CSBS first accredited the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance in 1992. The 127-employee Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, which is headed by Commissioner Steven D. Bridges, supervises 283 commercial banks, five credit-card banks, 19 international agencies and representatives offices, 241 financial institution and registered holding companies, and two non-deposit trust companies, with total assets of more than \$60 billion.

The Iowa Division of Banking was the nation's second state banking department to receive CSBS accreditation, in 1985. It has now completed two full cycles of reaccreditation. Commissioner Michael K. Gutttau heads the 75-employee agency, which supervises 392 banks and one non-deposit trust company, with total assets of more than \$30 billion.

The Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions also received a second reaccreditation, having first completed the process in 1987. Commissioner Bill C. Houston and his 100 staff members supervise 179 commercial banks and nine non-deposit trust companies, with total assets of \$24.3 billion.

Finally, CSBS also reaccredited the Texas Department of Banking, which received its first accreditation in 1993. Commissioner Catherine Ghiglieri heads a 135-person agency, with oversight responsibility for total assets of \$116 billion, in 415 commercial banks, 35 non-deposit trust companies, and 15 foreign bank agencies.

To earn CSBS accreditation, departments must complete a Self-Evaluation Questionnaire, which reviews all aspects of the Department's operations: its mission, policies, procedures, funding, and statutory authority. A Review Team of veteran regulators then visits the agency to determine whether it is meeting its responsibilities for chartering, regulating and supervising the state's banks. The Review Team reports its findings and makes a recommendation to CSBS's Performance Standards Committee, which votes on the final accreditation decision.

Accredited departments receive annual reviews to ensure that they are maintaining high performance standards, and must repeat the entire process approximately every five years. CSBS has accredited 43 state banking departments, which supervise more than 95% of all assets in the state banking system.