

**§ 53C-6-16. Change of location of a branch or principal office.**

(a) A bank may change the location of its principal office or a branch with the prior written approval of the Commissioner. A request to relocate the principal office or a branch of a bank shall be made in a form acceptable to the Commissioner and shall include information regarding the reason for the proposed relocation, the distance and direction of the move, and such other information as the Commissioner may require in order to reach a decision in the matter.

(b) Not more than 30 days before nor less than 10 days after filing a request to relocate the principal office or a branch of a bank, the applicant shall publish public notice of the request. The public notice shall contain all of the following:

- (1) A statement that the request has been filed with the Commissioner.
- (2) The physical address of the principal office or branch to be relocated and the physical address of the proposed new location.
- (3) A statement that any interested person may make written comment on the request to the Commissioner and that comments received by the Commissioner within 14 days of the date of publication of the public notice will be considered. The statement shall provide the then current mailing address of the Commissioner.

(c) The Commissioner shall approve a request to relocate the principal office or a branch of a bank if the relocation is to a site within the same vicinity as the original location, or does not result in a material change in the primary service area of the principal office or branch, or is considered important to the economic viability of the bank or the branch, or is otherwise found not to be inconsistent with the public need and convenience. (2012-56, s. 4.)