# Alabama Department of Corrections

## Montgomery, Alabama

October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024

Filed: April 24, 2026

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

Rachel Laurie Riddle, *Chief Examiner* | 334-777-0500 | www.alexaminers.gov

**State of Alabama**
Department of
# Examiners of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 302251, Montgomery, AL 36130-2251
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4338
Telephone (334) 777-0500
FAX (334) 242-1775

Rachel Laurie Riddle
*Chief Examiner*

Honorable Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner of Public Accounts
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Madam:

An examination was conducted on the Alabama Department of Corrections, Montgomery, Alabama, for the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024, by Examiners Helena Bryant, Abigail Gachupin-Nava, Reese Galloway, Maxwell Robinson-Gray and Ahmad Stringer. I, Helena Bryant, served as Examiner-in-Charge on the engagement, and under the authority of the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-5A-19, I hereby swear to and submit this report to you on the results of the examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena Bryant
Examiner of Public Accounts

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## EXAMINER'S SUMMARY

**Alabama Department of Corrections**
**October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024**

### ***PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATION***

This report presents the results of an examination of the Alabama Department of Corrections (the "Department") and a review of the Department's compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alabama. This examination was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts under the authority of the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-5A-12. The examination was performed to determine whether the public officers, agents, and employees of the Department's properly and lawfully accounted for all money and other public assets, or resources received, disbursed, or in the custody of the Department.

This examination included procedures to determine whether the Department complied with the state laws and regulations that pertain to its financial transactions; personnel; safeguarding of state-owned assets, property, and resources; information dissemination, processing, and retention; and official actions, rulemaking procedures, and meetings. The Department's internal control policies and procedures relating to the areas listed above were also reviewed; however, this examination did not encompass managerial and operational matters, such as whether the Department accomplished its mission or its regulatory, enforcement, investigative, or other oversight activities in an efficient, fair, timely, or legal manner.

The mission and purpose of the Department is described in the accompanying Agency Overview.

### ***RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION***

Nonconsumable personal property in the custody of the Department was compared with the property records maintained by the Property Inventory Control Division of the State Auditor's Office as required by the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 36-16-9. Testing revealed no discrepancies.

***Findings***

The following instances of noncompliance with State laws and regulations and other matters were found during the examination, as shown on the Schedule of State Legal Compliance and Other Findings and they are summarized below.

- ♦ 2024-001: The Department did not conduct annual program evaluations of organizations participating in the Community Corrections Program during the examination period. This finding was reported in prior examinations as Findings 2018-02 and 2014-03.

- ♦ 2024-002: The Department charged a bad check fee for which there was no administrative rule setting the specific the specific amount to be charged.

- ♦ 2024-003: The Department did not file a report on the expenditures for mental health and health care services for inmates for fiscal year 2023. This finding was reported in the prior examination as Finding 2018-01.

- ♦ 2024-004: The Department did not perform bank reconciliations promptly, maintain adequate supporting documentation, or make deposits in a timely manner.

***EXIT CONFERENCE***

An exit conference was held on March 25, 2026. Individuals in attendance were Samson Ervin, Interim Accounting Division Director; Brandy Offord, Accounting Director; and Bodie Pickens, Internal Audit Director; along with Manuel Anthony and Ahmad Stringer from the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

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## AGENCY OVERVIEW

**Alabama Department of Corrections**
**October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024**

The Alabama Department of Corrections (the "Department") was established and operates under the authority of the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Sections 14-1-1.1 through 14-1-20. The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 14-1-15, states that all duties, responsibilities, authority, power, assets, liabilities, property, funds, appropriations, contractual rights and obligations, property rights and personnel, whether accruing or vested, by operation or law, which were previously vested in the Board of Corrections under the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Title 14, Chapters 1 through 12, are hereby vested in the Governor of the State of Alabama. This includes the operation of a system of diversified prison industries, maintenance of necessary records on facilities and inmates, provisions for apprehension of escaped convicts, and responsibility for clothing and travel expenses for discharged convicts.

The Commissioner serves as the head of the Department and is shown in Exhibit 1. Additional information on the Department of Corrections can be found on their website at www.doc.alabama.gov.

# *Schedule of State Legal Compliance and Other Findings*

| Ref. No. | Finding/Noncompliance |
|---|---|
| 2024-001 | **Finding:**<br>The Alabama Department of Corrections (the "Department") did not conduct annual program evaluations of organizations participating in the Community Corrections Program. During the examination period, only two evaluations were completed for the selected Community Corrections Programs. Neither evaluation was completed annually as required.<br><br>The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 15-18-174(7), requires the Department to conduct an audit and annual program evaluation of organizations participating in the Community Corrections Program. This finding was reported in prior examinations as Findings 2018-02 and 2014-03.<br><br>**Recommendation:**<br>The Department should ensure audits and program evaluations of organizations participating in the Community Corrections Program are performed as required by the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 15-18-174(7). |
| 2024-002 | **Finding:**<br>The Department charged a bad check fee for which there was no administrative rule setting the specific amount to be charged.<br><br>The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-22-3(9) defines a rule as, "Each agency rule, regulation, standard, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or that describes the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of any agency and includes any form which imposes any requirement or solicits any information not specifically required by statute or by an existing rule or by federal statute or by federal rule or regulation…"<br><br>As a result of not setting the amount to be charged for a bad check, the Department could charge varying amounts for a bad check.<br><br>**Recommendation:**<br>The Department should promulgate a rule setting the amount for the bad check fee. |

| Ref. No. | Finding/Noncompliance |
|---|---|
| 2024-003 | **Finding:**<br>The Department did not file a report on the expenditures for mental health and health care services for inmates for fiscal year 2023.<br><br>The General Fund Appropriation Act for fiscal year 2024 requires the Department to file a report with the Chairs of the House Ways and Means-General Fund Committee and the Senate Finance and Taxation-General Fund Committee and the Legislative Fiscal Officer prior to the first day of the 2024 Regular Session regarding fiscal year 2023 expenditures for inmates mental health and healthcare services, including a detailed explanation of cost increases.<br><br>Adequate procedures were not in place to ensure Appropriation Act requirements were implemented. This finding was reported in the prior examination as Finding 2018-01.<br><br>**Recommendation:**<br>The Department should report expenditures for mental health and health care services for inmates to the required parties to ensure compliance with the applicable Appropriation Act. |

| Ref. No. | Finding/Noncompliance |
|---|---|
| 2024-004 | **<u>Finding:</u>**<br>The Department did not perform bank reconciliations promptly, maintain adequate supporting documentation, or make deposits in a timely manner.<br><br>The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 36-12-2 states, "All public officers and servants shall correctly make and accurately keep in and for their respective offices or places of business all such books or sets of books, documents, files, papers, letters and copies of letters as at all times shall afford full and detailed information in reference to the activities or business required to be done or carried on by such officer or servant and from which the actual status and condition of such activities and business can be ascertained without extraneous information, and all of the books, documents, files, papers, letters, and copies of letters so made and kept shall be carefully protected and safely preserved and guarded from mutilation, loss or destruction."<br><br>The Department did not have adequate controls in place to ensure bank reconciliations were performed promptly, adequate supporting documentation was maintained, and deposits were made in a timely manner. During our review of 10 correctional facility internal audit reports related to its bank accounts, tests performed indicated bank reconciliations were not available for review at two facilities and checks, deposits, bank statements, receipts or expenditure documentation related to its bank accounts were not available at seven facilities. In addition, reports noted deposits were not made in a timely manner.<br><br>**<u>Recommendation:</u>**<br>The Department should ensure that bank accounts are reconciled promptly, deposits are made in a timely manner and records are kept and made available for inspection as required by the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 36-12-2. |

# *Other Information*

**Official**

Mr. John Q Hamm, Commissioner
301 Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36108
(334) 353-3883