



Sunset Report
**Polygraph
Examiners Board**
Montgomery, Alabama

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

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



Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

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

August 12, 2026

Representative Margie Wilcox
Chairman, Sunset Committee
Alabama State House
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Representative Wilcox:

This report was prepared to provide information for use by the Sunset Committee in conducting its review and evaluation of the operations of the Polygraph Examiners Board in accordance with the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-20-9.

The report contains unaudited information obtained from the management, staff, and records of the Polygraph Examiners Board in addition to information obtained from other sources.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

Examiner
Robin Hutcheson

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PROFILE

Purpose/Authority

The Polygraph Examiners Board (the “Board”) was created by Act Number 2056, Acts of Alabama 1971. The Board sets qualification standards for polygraph examiners and minimum instrumentation requirements for polygraph examinations. The Board issues licenses to qualified applicants and enforces statutes, rules, and regulations governing polygraph examiners. The Board operates under the authority of the *Code of Alabama of 1975*, Sections 34-25-1 through 34-25-8 and Sections 34-25-20 through 34-25-36.

The following Act passed since the last sunset review has been codified in the current statutory authority.

Act Number 2024-383, Acts of Alabama, relating to the Polygraph Examiners Board; to amend Sections 34-25-2, 34-25-3, and 34-25-20, *Code of Alabama 1975*, to define “polygraph device”; to specify that a polygraph device does not include equipment or devices used for the purpose of computer voice stress analysis; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

<u>Characteristics</u>	
Members and Selection	The Board’s membership is comprised of seven members, appointed by the Governor. • Five Polygraph Examiners as voting members. • Two Advisory Consultants as non-voting members. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(a)
Term	Four-year terms. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(a)
Qualifications	Polygraph Examiners members must: • Be a citizen of the United States and resident of the state for at least two years prior to appointment. • Be engaged in their profession as a polygraph examiner for four consecutive years prior to appointment. • Be an active polygraph examiner at the time of appointment. • Three members shall be qualified polygraph examiners of a governmental law enforcement agency, and two members shall be qualified polygraph examiners in the commercial field.

Qualifications (continued)	Advisory Consultants: One consultant must be an attorney licensed to practice law in Alabama and the other must be a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist. The Board has the authority to establish the qualifications for the advisory consultants by Administrative Rule. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(a) <i>Administrative Rule</i> 740-X-2-.02
Consumer Representation	No specific statutory requirement.
Racial Representation	No specific statutory requirement. One black member is currently serving.
Geographical Representation	No specific statutory requirement.
Other Representation	The membership of the Board should be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(a)
Compensation	Board members receive \$100.00 per day plus mileage for attendance at regular or special board meetings, only for the actual days of meeting. The Board may approve the payment for a Board member when authorized by the Board to perform certain other duties of the Board when not in formal, regular, or special session. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-5(d)
Attended Board Member Training	Five Board members Administrative Secretary

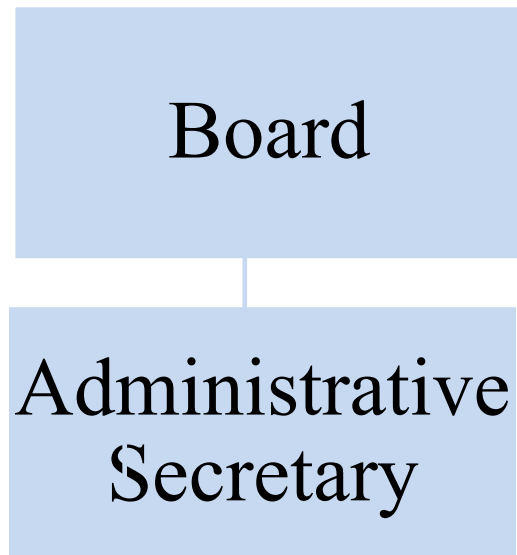
<u>Operations</u>	
Administrator	Maria Sledge, Administrative Secretary, a retired, part-time, state employee compensated at \$16.70 per hour. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(b)
Location	301 South Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36104 The Board does not have set office hours. One part-time, retired state employee works on an as needed basis. It is noted that licensees responding to our survey indicated that the Board responded to inquiries and completed license renewals timely.
Real Property Ownership	The Board does not own any real property.
Employees	One part-time, retired state employee. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-4(b)
Legal Counsel	Brian J. Williams, Licensed Attorney and Consultant member, provides legal services for the Board.
Subpoena Power	Yes. The Board is authorized to administer oaths and issue subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books, papers, documents, etc. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-34(b)
Internet Presence	www.polygraph.alabama.gov The website contains the current statutes, rules, consumer information, equipment information, Board members, License and Renewal forms, upcoming events, and Red Tape Reduction Initiative. Minutes of the Board's meetings and complaint forms are not available online.

<u>Financial</u>	
Source of Funds	Licensing fees.
State Treasury	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 0410 in the State Treasury. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-25-5(c)
Required Distributions	None.
Unused Funds	The Board retains unused funds at fiscal year-end.
<u>Licensure</u>	
Licensees	120 licensees as of February 24, 2026. <i>Source:</i> Administrative Secretary
Licensure Qualifications	Applicants seeking a Polygraph Examiner license must: • Be at least 21 years of age. • Citizen of the United States or legally present. • Establish that they are a person of honesty, truthfulness, integrity, and moral fitness. • Have not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. • Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and/or recognized by the Board, or have 5 consecutive years of active investigative experience immediately preceding his or her application. • Be a graduate of a polygraph examiners course approved by the Board. • Pass examination conducted by the Board or under its supervision. • Furnish the Board evidence of a surety bond or insurance policy in the amount of \$5,000.00. • Complete a background check. Applicants seeking an Internship License must: • Have completed the residence phase of a polygraph school approved by the Board. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-25-21, 34-25-22, and 34-25-25 <i>Administrative Rules</i> 740-X-3-.02(e) and 740-X-4-.01(c)

Examinations	Examinations are administered and graded by the Board. Examinations are given as often as necessary at the State Troopers Association Building in Montgomery. <table><tr><th colspan="4">Examination Results</th></tr><tr><th>Fiscal Year</th><th># Taken</th><th>#Passed</th><th>%Passed</th></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>18</td><td>18</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>10</td><td>9</td><td>90%</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>100%</td></tr></table> There are no approved or accredited schools for polygraph examiners in Alabama. Source: Administrative Secretary	Examination Results				Fiscal Year	# Taken	#Passed	%Passed	2022	1	1	100%	2023	18	18	100%	2024	10	9	90%	2025	4	4	100%
Examination Results																									
Fiscal Year	# Taken	#Passed	%Passed																						
2022	1	1	100%																						
2023	18	18	100%																						
2024	10	9	90%																						
2025	4	4	100%																						
Reciprocity	An applicant who is a polygraph examiner licensed under the laws of another state or territory of the United States may be issued a license without examination by the Board, in its discretion, upon payment of the appropriate fees as provided in <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-26 and the production of satisfactory proof that the applicant is: • At least 21 years of age. • A citizen of the United States. • Of good moral character. • Has met the requirements for licensure in a state where, at the date of the applicant’s licensing, were substantially equivalent to the current requirements of this state. • Lawfully engaged in the administration of polygraph examinations under the laws of such state or territory for at least two years prior to the application for license. • From a state or territory which grants similar reciprocity to Alabama license holders. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-24 The Board no longer has reciprocity agreements with other states due to some states no longer having licensing boards. Reciprocity is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.																								

Renewals	The license year runs from October 1 to September 30. Licenses expire on September 30. • If renewed within 2 months after expiration, the license can be renewed with no exam and no late fee. • If renewed between 3 and 6 months after expiration, no exam is required, but a \$50 late penalty fee is charged. Online renewal is not available. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-29(a) <i>Administrative Rule</i> 740-X-3-.07
Licensee Demographics	Data not collected by the Board.
Continuing Education	Twelve credit hours annually. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-25-29(b) <i>Administrative Rule</i> 740-X-3-.16

ORGANIZATION



PERSONNEL

Employees

The Board employs one retired state employee who works part-time at an hourly rate of \$16.70 per hour as the Administrative Secretary.

Legal Counsel

Legal services are provided by Brian J. Williams, a private attorney who also serves as the Board's legal advisory consultant member.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Number of Licensees for the Past Four Fiscal Years

Type of License	Fiscal Year			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Polygraph Examiners	135	111	128	119
Internship (1)	24	7	7	1

(1) *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-25-25 provides that an Internship license shall be valid for six months from the date of issuance. The license may be extended for any term not to exceed six months for good cause.

Operating Disbursements per Licensee (FY 2025) – \$170.83

Fines/Penalties as a Percentage of Operating Receipts

There were no fines or penalties assessed during the Sunset period.

Notification of Board Decisions to Amend Administrative Rules

The Board complied with notification procedures prescribed in the Administrative Procedure Act, which includes publication of proposed rules in the Administrative Monthly, and public hearings on proposed rules. Licensees are not specifically notified of proposed changes.

COMPLAINT HANDLING

The Board's *Administrative Rule* 740-X-06 provides the procedures for documentation, receipt, and investigation of complaints against licensees.

Initial Contact/Documentation	Anyone can file a complaint, including Board members and staff. Complaints against a licensee must be submitted in writing, signed, and notarized to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board. Individuals wishing to file a complaint should contact the Board and ask for an official complaint form. The complainant is notified by certified mail when the Board receives their complaint.
Anonymous Complaints Accepted	No
Investigative Process/Probable Cause Determination	Upon receiving a complaint, the Complaint committee consisting of the Administrative Secretary, the Board's legal counsel, and the Board member from the complainant's geographical area, may make further investigation, request all the parties concerned appear at an informal hearing or begin proceedings to suspend or revoke the license.
Negotiated Settlements	Yes
Notification of Resolution to the Complainant	Complainants are notified by certified mail.

Source: Administrative Secretary

Complaint Data

Schedule of Complaints Resolved Fiscal Year 2022 through 2025					
Year/Number of Complaints Received	Year/Number Resolved				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Pending
2022 / 0					
2023 / 2			2		
2024 / 2			2		
2025 / 0					

Source: Administrative Secretary

Average Time to Resolve Complaints – 112 business days.

Disposition of Resolved Complaints

Number of Complaints	Resolution
1	Case sent to Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Criminal Investigations Division
1	License Revoked
1	License Suspended
1	Complaint Unfounded

REGULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

The Board does not coordinate regulation, licensing, or permitting with any other state or federal agency.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Source of Funds

Licensing fees are deposited into the Polygraph Examiners Board's Special Revenue Fund in the State Treasury.

Schedule of Fees

Fee Type/Purpose	Statutory Authority	Amount Authorized	Amount Collected
Examination Fee	34-25-26 (1)	\$250.00	\$250.00
Original License Fee	34-25-26 (2)	\$250.00	\$250.00
Internship License Fee	34-25-26 (3)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Duplicate License Fee	34-25-26 (4)	\$20.00	\$20.00
Renewal License Fee	34-25-26 (5)	\$200.00	\$200.00
Internship Extension Fee	34-25-26 (6)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Duplicate Internship License Fee	34-25-26 (7)	\$20.00	\$20.00
Late Fee	34-25-29 (a)	Determined by the Board ¹	\$50.00

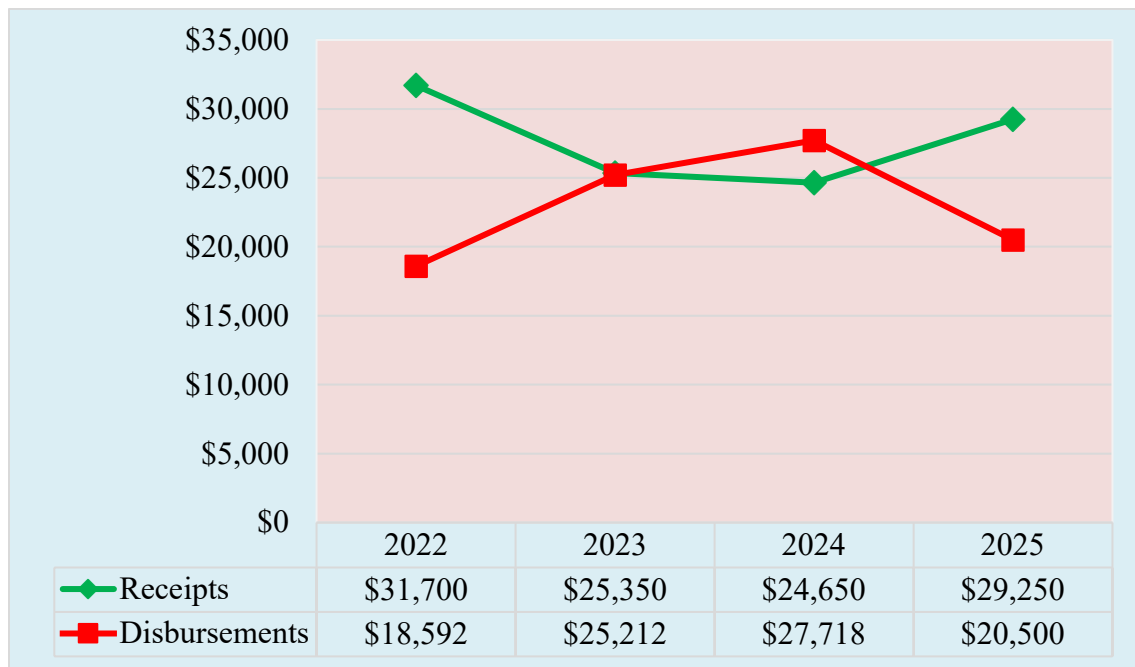
¹Set by *Administrative Rule* 740-X-3-.07(3)(a)

Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025

	<u>2021 - 2022</u>	<u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>2024 - 2025</u>
<u>Receipts</u>				
Licensing Fees	\$ 31,700.00	\$ 25,350.00	\$ 24,650.00	\$ 29,250.00
Total	<u>31,700.00</u>	<u>25,350.00</u>	<u>24,650.00</u>	<u>29,250.00</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>				
Personnel Costs	9,770.11	11,421.52	12,827.22	9,073.45
Employee Benefits	747.40	2,487.34	3,429.42	3,127.03
Travel, In-State	3,685.55	5,038.47	7,734.76	4,506.66
Rentals & Leases	75.00	200.00	350.00	125.00
Utilities & Communications	241.67	174.21	261.54	215.80
Professional Services	3,093.49	2,758.76	2,166.93	2,595.30
Supplies, Materials, & Operating Expenses	979.17	931.43	748.40	856.43
Prior Year Refunds		2,200.00	200.00	
Total	<u>18,592.39</u>	<u>25,211.73</u>	<u>27,718.27</u>	<u>20,499.67</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over Disbursements	13,107.61	138.27	(3,068.27)	8,750.33
Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	<u>35,781.44</u>	<u>48,889.05</u>	<u>49,027.32</u>	<u>45,959.05</u>
Cash Balance at End of Year	48,889.05	49,027.32	45,959.05	54,709.38
Reserved for Year-End Obligations	<u>(1,611.39)</u>	<u>(3,610.00)</u>	<u>(2,319.08)</u>	<u>(1,661.22)</u>
Unobligated Cash Balance at End of Year	<u>\$47,277.66</u>	<u>\$45,417.32</u>	<u>\$43,639.97</u>	<u>\$53,048.16</u>

Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements

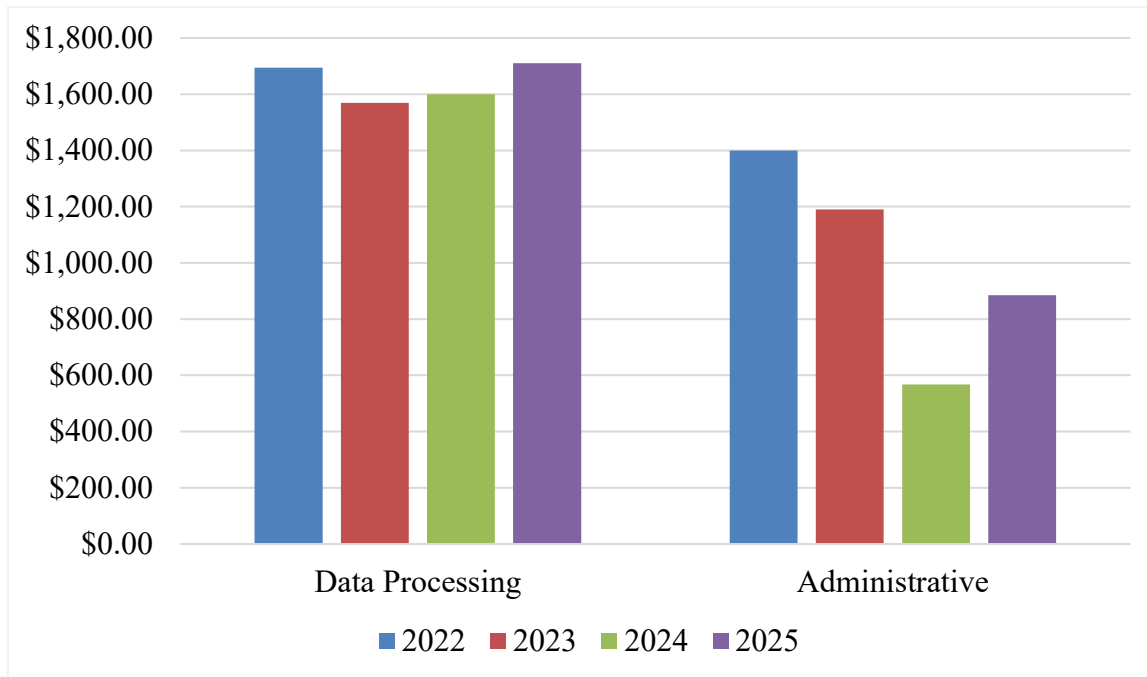


Summary Schedule of Professional Service Disbursements*

As of September 30th				
Type of Service	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Data Processing	\$1,694.54	\$1,569.00	\$1,599.50	\$1,709.80
Administrative	1,398.95	1,189.76	567.43	885.50
Total Professional Services	\$3,093.49	\$2,758.76	\$2,166.93	\$2,595.30

*Detailed information presented in Appendix II of this report.

Professional Service Disbursement



SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No new significant issues.

STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Matter of Concern 2026-001: Eleven of the thirty-four (32%) licensees responding to our survey indicated Voice Stress Analysis is the most significant issue facing their profession. One stating it is a non-scientific process and one indicating it is unreliable compared to a polygraph examination.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Board Member Questionnaire

A letter was sent to all seven members of the Polygraph Examiners Board requesting participation in our survey. Two participated in our survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. What do you consider the most significant issue(s) currently facing the Polygraph Examiners Board and how is the Board addressing these issues?

Board Member #1 – “Getting new legislation passed giving the Board authority to act. The Board is trying to work with legislators to back the new necessary legislation.”

Board Member #2 – “Trying to keep Voice Stress testing out of Alabama.”

2. What, if any, changes to the Board’s laws are needed?

Board Member #1 – “The Board needs the authority to act on minor issues and authority to change by-laws and rules to keep up to date.”

Board Member #2 – “Allowing non practicing examiners to maintain their license at a reduced cost.”

3. Do you think the Board is adequately funded?

No	1	50%
Unknown	1	50%

4. Do you think the Board is adequately staffed?

Yes	2	100%
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5. Does the Board receive regular reports on its operations from the Administrative Secretary?

Yes	2	100%
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6. Has the Board experienced any significant change to its operations?

No	2	100%
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7. Does the Board plan to make any significant changes to its operations?

Yes	1	50%
Unknown	1	50%

8. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Board Member #1 – “A small but necessary Board. The Board does not receive funding from the State. Old statutes from when the Board was first developed new to be updated to give the Board the authority to act on issues from constituents.”

Board Member #2 – “No”

Licensee Questionnaire

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting participation in our survey. Thirty-four participated in the survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. What do you consider the most significant issue(s) facing your profession in Alabama?

Respondent #1 – “Allowing other agencies to use Voice Stress Analysis instead of Polygraph.”

Respondent #2 – “The licensing testing is wildly outdated.”

Respondent #3 – “The fact that it's only considered opinion and not admissible in court. Which causes a certain segment of society to dispute in the science behind it.”

Respondent #4 – “Voice Stress Analyzer”

Respondent #5 – “I am a new examiner so my experience is extremely limited, but I think testing sex offenders is something we should be doing as a condition of release.”

Respondent #6 – “The legislature attempting to remove licensing requirements. The introduction of the CVSA as a truth detector.”

Respondent #7 – “Defending polygraph in the state and possibly a PSA in the legal community.”

Respondent #8 – “The fact that the State Code of Polygraph was changed without any discussion from any board member or any polygraph examiner. This was a political action that negatively impacted polygraph.”

Respondent #9 – “Making sure the standards are set and adhered too. Make sure VSA stays out of Alabama.”

Respondent #10 – No response

Respondent #11 – “Funding to maintain enough polygraph examiners.”

Respondent #12 – “Acceptance of validity of polygraph”

Respondent #13 – “As one member of the board stated, “I am a member of the polygraph board” and don't need my charts examined. There is no established quality control review of polygraph exams that I know of in the state. No one should ever take a police administered polygraph exam without the examiner furnishing all charts for review by an outside source. The polygraph exam is designed to seek the truth - not obtain a confession.”

Respondent #14 – “Lack of understanding. Public perception is outdated or misunderstood due to TV.”

Respondent #15 – “The use of Voice Stress Analysis as a legitimate piece of equipment for truth verification.”

Respondent #16 – “People not properly trained using devices that are not accurate or reliable detecting deception. (Voice Stress)”

Respondent #17 – “Continue the existence of this board for the protection of the public from the unscrupulous.”

Respondent #18 – “The laws and rules regulating polygraph need to stay. Changing the law to allowing the CVSA has weakened the profession.”

Respondent #19 – “Misconceptions regarding the standard use and application of polygraph.”

Respondent #20 – “The development and improvement in technology will change polygraph in the years to come. I think research & training needs to be used to adapt & add new technologies & techniques to our profession to make it more accurate & reliable.”

Respondent #21 – “The Alabama Standards should reflect best practices as reflected in the standards by the American Polygraph Association and the National Association of Police Polygraphists. The consistency between State and National Associations provides a framework for professional excellence. The current standards are determined by the legal standards which are antiquated. The Board should have the flexibility to require changes to reflect the most recent validated and verified techniques as demonstrated by the science.”

Respondent #22 – “Lack of necessary legislation giving the Board the necessary authority to act on issues.”

Respondent #23 – “The VSA users are trying to get the polygraph rules and regulations as their own. We have a board and association that governs us; we don't need VSA to come in and say they are the same as polygraph examiners.”

Respondent #24 – “I don't know if this applies to this question, but I would like to see the board lobby the legislature to enact mandatory PCSOT testing for convicted sex offenders as every state surrounding around Alabama has done.”

Respondent #25 – “Maintaining professional polygraph examiners within the state to assist with law enforcement investigations.”

Respondent #26 – “1. Allowing the use of voice stress analyzers in lieu of polygraph examinations. 2. Not having a law in place for mandatory testing of those that have been convicted of sex crime offenses. There is a high recidivism rate for sex offenders and by having mandatory periodic screenings of those that are out on parole or probation would be very beneficial in monitoring and preventing future sex crimes by these offenders.”

Respondent #27 – “The loss of the board would be the most detrimental thing to our profession at this point.”

Respondent #28 – “As a professional polygraph examiner, I believe it is critical to address a significant public safety issue currently before the Alabama Legislature. House Bill 452 proposes authorizing post-conviction polygraph examinations for convicted sex offenders as a condition of their release. This measure is not novel or experimental; every state bordering Alabama already incorporates post-conviction polygraph testing as a standard component of sex offender supervision.

Post-conviction polygraph examinations are a well-established risk-management tool used nationwide to enhance accountability, encourage disclosure of risky behaviors, and support supervising agencies in making informed decisions. When integrated into a comprehensive supervision and treatment program, polygraph testing assists probation and parole officers, treatment providers, and law enforcement in identifying compliance issues before they escalate into new offenses.

The absence of this tool places Alabama at a disadvantage compared to neighboring states and limits the effectiveness of post-release supervision for a population known to present elevated recidivism and community risk concerns. HB 452 would bring Alabama in line with proven best practices already adopted throughout the region and across the country.

Passing this bill is not about punishment; it is about prevention. It is about providing supervising authorities with the necessary tools to protect children, families, and communities, while promoting responsible reintegration of offenders under structured oversight. For these reasons, HB 452 deserves serious consideration and support as a commonsense public safety measure.”

Respondent #29 – “State legislature considering VSA voice stress analysis the equivalent of a polygraph examination. VSA is very unreliable with a 26% accuracy rate as compared to a 93% accuracy rate of a proper polygraph examination.”

Respondent #30 – “Lack of knowledge with polygraph or credibility.”

Respondent #31 – “Maintaining the professional standards that currently exist.”

Respondent #32 – “No issues. We have a great licensing board in Alabama.”

Respondent #33 – “Keeping the integrity of the license process. The license process is necessary to keep the unqualified people from being able to administer polygraphs.”

Respondent #34 – “The threat from non-scientific processes such as voice stress analysis.”

2. Do you think regulation of your profession by the Polygraph Examiners Board is necessary to protect the public welfare?

Yes	31	91%
No	3	9%

3. Do you think any of the Board’s laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of your profession?

Yes	1	3%
No	32	94%
Unknown	1	3%

4. Are you adequately informed by the Board of changes to and interpretations of the Board’s positions, policies, rules, and laws?

Yes	30	88%
No	2	6%
Unknown	2	6%

5. Do you consider mandatory continuing education necessary for the competent practice of your profession?

Yes	31	91%
No	3	9%

6. Does the Board respond to your inquiries in a timely manner?

Yes	27	79%
No	2	6%
Unknown	5	15%

7. Has the Board performed your licensing and renewal in a timely manner?

Yes	33	97%
No	1	3%

8. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “None”

Respondent #2 – “The licensing exam is wildly out dated. There should be a digital option for reviewing charts during the licensing phase due to paper charts rarely being used anymore. The Alabama polygraph board works extremely slow with the licensing process of incoming examiners.”

Respondent #3 – “No”

Respondent #4 – “No”

Respondent #5 – “n/a”

Respondent #6 – “The Polygraph Board is extremely necessary to continue to license examiners and to keep the standards high.”

Respondent #7 – “CE requirements should be relaxed to perhaps 12 hours every two years. I have been an examiner for 30 years and most presentations are now very repetitive.”

Respondent #8 – “None”

Respondent #9 – “No”

Respondent #10 – Did not respond.

Respondent #11 – “No”

Respondent #12 – “None”

Respondent #13 – “It is my opinion and experience that the current board members approve or disapprove of someone seeking to serve a vacancy - based on my years of experience. A capital murder case in 2014 that admitted polygraph evidence presented facts that the police examiner violated professional practice standards and that person will probably end up on the board. Question #2: An effective board with a mission to protect the public can be effective.”

Respondent #14 – “N/A”

Respondent #15 – “No thank you.”

Respondent #16 – “The Polygraph Board and the required licensing is imperative to protect the public from con artists.”

Respondent #17 – “No”

Respondent #18 – “I believe the state needs to maintain the procedures that are in place to license a polygraph examiner.”

Respondent #19 – “We absolutely need to keep and support our board!”

Respondent #20 – “The policies, laws & polygraph in general in the state of Alabama needs to be completely overhauled and revamped to more up to date research and studies.”

Respondent #21 – “Alabama is respected throughout the nation. It is comparable to the American Polygraph Association and the National Association of Police Polygraphists because examiners hold each other accountable and there is an environment to place accuracy, trust and reputation as paramount. The Board does a good job of insisting on integrity within the profession.”

Respondent #22 – “Small but necessary Board to protect the profession and integrity of the profession. A small self funded Board. Not asking for State funding but exemptions or waivers from mandatory State expenses would be helpful.”

Respondent #23 – “I am also licensed in another state. Alabama has the best Polygraph board and rules around.”

Respondent #24 – “I would like to see the written test to obtain an Alabama Polygraph License updated with questions and a format that is modern. The current test is so old, it looks like it was written with a type writer. Along with an updated test, needs to be a more comprehensive study guide. The licensing test I took had very little information that I had learned in basic polygraph school. Perhaps the board could get with a couple of the more popular polygraph schools , like AIIP, and come up with a more relevant test and study guide.”

Respondent #25 – “None”

Respondent #26 – “Alabama is considered one of the most organized and structured polygraph associations in the country due to Polygraph Examiners Board and the rules, regulations, and oversight it provides. We need to continue having a high-quality profession of polygraph examiners in Alabama.”

Respondent #27 – “If the board is dissolved there would be no regulations on examiners, and no testing process for new members within the state to ensure they were properly trained. I am aware that polygraph examinations aren't always allowed in court proceedings, but they are a very valuable investigative tool. The loss of the board would deteriorate the quality of the polygraphs being done, not stop them. The public seeking these services would be the ones to suffer the most. One only has to look to the state of [REDACTED] to understand what that would mean. There are only two types of people passionate about ending the board, rogue examiners, and those who use voice stress analyzers.”

Respondent #28 – “no”

Respondent #29 – “This licensing board is necessary to maintain the quality, professionalism and continuing education standards in our state.”

Respondent #30 – “Post conviction sex offender testing should be mandatory.”

Respondent #31 – “I believe that our Polygraph Board is necessary and should continue its function of upholding the qualifications and integrity of examinations in Alabama. This board ensures that all people who take a polygraph exam in Alabama are treated to the highest standards.”

Respondent #32 – “No”

Respondent #33 – “None at this time.”

Respondent #34 – “No, the license board has been instrumental in keeping us aware of changes in our profession. Especially in regards to continuing education and new scientific techniques.”

Complainant Questionnaire

A letter was sent to three complainants requesting participation in our survey. One participated in the survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. Was the receipt of your complaint acknowledged by the Board?

Yes	1	100%
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2. Approximately how long after filing your complaint did the Board contact you?

Within 15 days	1	100%
-----------------------	----------	-------------

3. Did the Board communicate the results of its investigation into your complaint to you?

Yes	1	100%
------------	----------	-------------

4. Do you think the Board did everything it could to resolve your complaint?

Yes	1	100%
------------	----------	-------------

5. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “No”

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Applicable Statutes

Section 34-25-1 Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Polygraph Examiners Act.
(*Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §1.*)

Section 34-25-2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (1) BOARD. The Polygraph Examiners Board.
- (2) CHAIR. The member of the Polygraph Examiners Board selected by the board to act as chair.
- (3) INTERNSHIP. The study of polygraph examinations and of the administration of polygraph examinations by a trainee under the personal supervision and control of a polygraph examiner in accordance with a course of study prescribed by the board at the commencement of the internship.
- (4) PERSON. Any natural person, firm, association, copartnership, or corporation.
- (5) POLYGRAPH EXAMINER. Any person who uses instrumentation described in this chapter to test or question individuals for the purpose of detecting deception or verifying truth of statements, or any person who holds himself or herself out to be a polygraph examiner, or any person who purports to be able to detect deception or verify truth of statements using a polygraph instrument.
- (6) POLYGRAPH DEVICE. An instrument that, at a minimum, records visually, permanently, and simultaneously a subject's cardiovascular pattern, respiratory pattern, and galvanic skin response. A polygraph device does not include equipment or devices used for the purpose of computer voice stress analysis.

(*Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §2; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3; Act 2024-383, §1.*)

Section 34-25-3 Instrumentation.

- (a) Every polygraph examiner shall use a polygraph device during a polygraph examination.
- (b) Patterns of other physiological changes may also be recorded during a polygraph examination.
- (c) The use of any polygraph device to detect or to verify the truth of statements which does not meet minimum instrumentation requirements required in Section 34-25-2 is prohibited.

(*Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §3; Acts 1983, No. 83-647, p. 1009, §1; Act 2024-383, §1.*)

Section 34-25-4 Polygraph Examiners Board generally.

(a) There is established a Polygraph Examiners Board consisting of five voting members who are citizens of the United States and residents of the state for at least two years prior to appointment, all of whom shall have been engaged for a period of four consecutive years in their profession as polygraph examiners prior to appointment to the board and engaged at the time of appointment as an active polygraph examiner. No board members may be employed by the same person or agency. Three of the board members shall be qualified polygraph examiners of a governmental law enforcement agency, and two of the board members shall be qualified polygraph examiners and Alabama residents in the commercial field. Two advisory consultants, who shall possess qualifications as established by rule of the board, shall be appointed to assist the board members. The board members and advisory consultants shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Alabama for a term of four years. Any vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for the unexpired term. In appointing members to the board, the Governor shall select those persons whose appointments, to the extent possible, ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. On April 11, 1989, all terms of current board members and advisory consultants shall expire. The Governor shall appoint new board members and advisory consultants in accordance with this chapter. Immediately after May 12, 2003, the board shall notify the Governor of the vacancies on the board and the Governor shall immediately appoint qualified persons to fill those vacancies in accordance with this chapter.

(b) The board may fix the number of its full-time employees, who shall be employed pursuant to the Merit System. The board may engage temporary services for the investigation of applications or to investigate complaints filed against examiners. The board shall fix the compensation for any temporary employees. Temporary employees of the board are not covered under the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Any current full-time employee of the board shall be transferred to the Department of Public Safety on April 11, 1989. All benefits, including retirement, of any current full-time employee of the board who is transferred to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with this chapter, shall be retroactive back to the original date of employment upon payment of necessary contributions as required by the Employees' Retirement System.

(c) On or after April 11, 1989, and within 30 days of the appointments by the Governor, this new board shall meet and elect a chair from among the members of the board. The board shall meet at three-month intervals, or at any other time as necessary.

(d) The vote of a majority of the board members is sufficient for passage of any business or proposal which comes before the board.

(e) All documents, records, functions, and responsibilities currently housed at the Board of Polygraph Examiners' Office shall be transferred to the Department of Public Safety in a section to be determined by the Director of the Department of Public Safety and under the supervision of the Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the board.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §4; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3; Act 2003-61, p. 93, §3; Act 2011-167, p. 318, §3.)

Section 34-25-5 Administration and enforcement of chapter; deposits and expenditures; per diem and travel expenses for board members; purchasing; board exempt from sales tax.

(a) The board shall issue regulations and forms consistent with this chapter for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

(b) An order or a certified copy thereof, overboard seal and purporting to be signed by the board members, shall be prima facie proof that the signatures are the genuine signatures of the board members and that the board members are fully qualified to act.

(c) On April 11, 1989, all moneys and appropriations credited to the Board of Polygraph Examiners under the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 4, Title 41, shall be transferred by the State Treasurer to the charge and custody of the Board of Polygraph Examiners of the Alabama Department of Public Safety; and the board shall administer the fund as provided by law. The fund is hereby officially known as the Board of Polygraph Examiners Fund.

All fees collected under this chapter shall be paid to the Board of Polygraph Examiners Fund for the purpose of administering and enforcing this chapter and shall be deposited in the fund.

Warrants shall be issued by the Department of Finance, office of the state Comptroller, for board expenses and operation provided that no funds shall be withdrawn except as budgeted and allotted according to Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41 and only in the amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill.

(d) Board members and advisory consultants shall be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) per day plus mileage for attendance at regular or special board meetings, only for the actual days of meeting. The board may approve the payment for a board member when authorized by the board to perform certain other duties of the board when not in formal, regular, or special session.

(e) Employees shall be paid the same mileage expenses and travel allowance as provided for regular state employees.

(f) The board may determine all resources necessary for the operation of the board. Purchasing shall be in accordance with the state bid law.

(g) The board shall be exempt from payment of state sales tax.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §5; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Acts 1983, No. 83-647, p. 1009, §1; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3; Acts 1995, No. 95-278, p. 500, §3.)

Section 34-25-6 Admissibility of results as evidence.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as permitting the results of truth examinations or polygraph examinations to be introduced or admitted as evidence in a court of law.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §26.)

Section 34-25-7

Injunctions; contempt of court.

If any person violates any provisions of this chapter, the board shall, upon direction of a majority of the board, in the name of the State of Alabama, apply in any circuit court of competent jurisdiction for an order enjoining such violation or an order enforcing compliance with this chapter. Upon the filing of a verified petition in the court, the court, or any judge thereof, if satisfied by affidavit or otherwise that the person has violated this chapter, may issue a temporary injunction, without notice or bond, enjoining such continued violation; and, if it is established that the person has violated or is violating this chapter, the court, or any judge thereof, may enter a judgment perpetually enjoining the violation or enforcing compliance with this chapter. In case of violation of any order or judgment issued under the provisions of this section, the court, or any judge thereof, may try and punish the offender for contempt of court. Proceedings under this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, all other remedies and penalties provided by this chapter.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §24; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-8 Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter or any person who falsely states or represents that he or she has been or is a polygraph examiner or trainee shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed six months, or both.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §25.)

Section 34-25-20 Required; unauthorized practice.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, including a city, county, or state employee, to administer polygraph examinations or attempt to hold himself or herself out as a polygraph examiner without a license approved by the board and issued by the board.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, including city, county, or state employees, to administer polygraph examinations utilizing any polygraph device that does not meet the requirements of Section 34-25-2.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §6; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Act 2024-383, §1.)

Section 34-25-21 Qualifications of examiner; bond.

(a) A person is qualified to receive a license as an examiner:

(1) Who is at least 21 years of age;

(2) Who is a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, who is a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government;

(3) Who establishes that he or she is a person of honesty, truthfulness, integrity, and moral fitness;

(4) Who has not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;

(5) Who holds a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and/or recognized by the board or, in lieu thereof, has five consecutive years of active investigative experience immediately preceding his or her application;

(6) Who is a graduate of a polygraph examiners' course approved by the board and has satisfactorily completed not less than six months of internship training; and

(7) Who, when required by this chapter, passed an examination conducted by the board, or under its supervision, to determine his or her competency to obtain a license to practice as an examiner.

(b) Prior to the issuance of a license, the applicant must furnish to the board evidence of a surety bond or insurance policy in an amount to be determined by the board. The surety bond or insurance policy shall be on the condition that the obligor therein will pay to the extent of the face amount of such surety bond or insurance policy all judgments which may be recovered against the licensee by reason of any wrongful or illegal acts committed by him or her in the course of his or her examinations.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §7; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3; Act 2011-167, p. 318, §3.)

Section 34-25-22 Applications for original license; background checks; disclosure of information.

(a) Applications for original license shall be made to the board in writing under oath on forms prescribed by the board and shall be accompanied by the required fee, which is not refundable. Any such application shall require such information as in the judgment of the board will enable it to pass on the qualifications of the applicant for a license.

(b) An applicant shall provide the board with two complete sets of fingerprints to be sent to the State Bureau of Investigations to conduct a criminal history background check. The State Bureau of Investigations shall forward a copy of the applicant's prints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal background check.

(c) The request to the board shall contain the following information:

(1) Two complete functional sets of fingerprints, either cards or electronic, properly executed by a criminal justice agency or an individual properly trained in fingerprinting techniques.

(2) Written consent from the applicant for the release of criminal history background information to the board.

(d) The applicant shall pay all costs associated with the background checks required by this section.

(e) The board shall keep information received pursuant to this section confidential, except that such information received and relied upon in denying the issuance of a license in this state may be disclosed as may be necessary to support the denial or when subpoenaed from a court.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §9; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3; Act 2016-189, §1.)

Section 34-25-23 Nonresident applicants.

(a) Each nonresident applicant for an original license or a renewal license shall file with the board an irrevocable consent that actions against the applicant may be filed in any appropriate court of any county or municipality of this state in which the plaintiff resides or in which some part of the transaction occurred out of which the alleged cause of action arose and that process on any such action may be served on the applicant by leaving two copies thereof with the board. Such consent shall stipulate and agree that such service of process shall be taken and held to be valid and binding for all purposes. The board shall send forthwith one copy of the process to the applicant at the address shown on the records of the board by registered or certified mail.

(b) Nonresident applicants must satisfy the requirements of Section 34-25-21.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §10; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-24 Applicant with out-of-state license.

An applicant who is a polygraph examiner licensed under the laws of another state or territory of the United States may be issued a license without examination by the board, in its discretion, upon payment of the appropriate fees as provided in Section 34-25-26 and the production of satisfactory proof that:

- (1) He is at least 21 years of age;
- (2) He is a citizen of the United States;
- (3) He is of good moral character;
- (4) The requirements for the licensing of polygraph examiners in such particular state or territory of the United States were at the date of the applicant's licensing therein substantially equivalent to the requirements now in force in this state;
- (5) The applicant had lawfully engaged in the administration of polygraph examinations under the laws of such state or territory for at least two years prior to the application for license hereunder;
- (6) Such other state or territory grants similar reciprocity to license holders of this state; and
- (7) He has complied with Section 34-25-23.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §11; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Acts 1987, No. 87-159, p. 219, §3; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-25 Internship license.

(a) Upon approval by the board, the board shall issue an internship license to a trainee provided he or she applies for such license and pays the required fee within 10 days prior to the commencement of his or her internship. The application shall contain such information as may be required by the board.

(b) An internship license shall be valid for the term of six months from the date of issue. Such license may be extended or renewed for any term not to exceed six months upon good cause shown to the board.

(c) A trainee shall not be entitled to hold an internship license after the expiration of the original six-month period and six-month extension, if such extension is granted by the board, until 12 months after the date of expiration of the last internship license held by the trainee.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §12; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-26 Examination and license fees.

The fee requirements of this chapter shall apply to all polygraph examiners, including those employed by governmental agencies, and to those who engage in polygraph examinations on any commercial basis. The fees to be paid, effective October 1, 2019, are as follows:

- (1) For an examination of an applicant to determine his or her fitness, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), which is not to be credited as payment against the license fee and is not refundable.
- (2) For the issuance of an original polygraph examiner's license, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).
- (3) For the issuance of an internship license, one hundred dollars (\$100).
- (4) For the issuance of a duplicate polygraph examiner's license, twenty dollars (\$20).
- (5) For the issuance of a polygraph examiner's renewal license, two hundred dollars (\$200).
- (6) For the extension or renewal of an internship license, one hundred dollars (\$100).
- (7) For the issuance of a duplicate internship license, twenty dollars (\$20).

(Acts 1983, No. 83-647, p. 1009, §1; Acts 1991, No. 91-164, p. 219, §3; Act 2019-408, §1.)

Section 34-25-27 Display of license; signature thereon.

A license or duplicate license must be prominently displayed at the place of business of the polygraph examiner or at the place of internship. Each license shall be signed by the board members and shall be issued under the seal of the board.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §14.)

Section 34-25-28 Change of business address.

Notice in writing shall be given to the board by the licensed examiner of any change of principal business location within 30 days of the time he or she changes the location. A change of business location without notification to the board shall automatically suspend the license therefor issued.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §15; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-29 Termination and renewal of examiner's license.

(a)(1) Each polygraph examiner's license shall be issued for the term of one year and shall, unless suspended or revoked, be renewed annually as prescribed by the board. A polygraph examiner whose license has expired may at any time within two months after the expiration obtain a renewal license, without examination or late penalty fee, by submitting a renewal application to the board and satisfying subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) of Section 34-25-21. A polygraph examiner whose license has expired, and who does not apply for renewal within two months following expiration, may at any time within three to six months after the expiration obtain a renewal license, without examination, by paying a late penalty fee as prescribed by the board, submitting a renewal application to the board, and satisfying subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) of Section 34-25-21.

(2) However, any polygraph examiner whose license expired while he or she was in the federal service on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, or the National Guard called into service or training, or in training or education under the supervision of the United States preliminary to induction into the military service, may have his or her license renewed, without examination or late penalty fee, if within six months after termination of such service, training, or education, except under conditions other than honorable, he or she furnishes the board with an affidavit to the effect that he or she has been so engaged and that his or her service, training, or other education has been terminated. Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) of Section 34-25-21 shall also be satisfied.

(b) The board shall adopt a program of continuing education for its licensees not later than October 1, 1993, and after that date no licensee shall have his or her active license renewed unless, in addition to any other requirements of this chapter, the minimum continuing annual education requirements are met. It is further provided that this continuing education program may not include testing or examination of the licensees in any manner.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §16; Acts 1981, No. 81-222, p. 293, §4; Acts 1983, No. 83-647, p. 1009, §1; Acts 1991, No. 91-164, p. 219, §3; Act 2003-61, p. 93, §3.)

Section 34-25-30 License required to maintain action.

No action or counterclaim shall be maintained by any person in any court in this state with respect to any agreement or service for which a license is required by this chapter or to recover such services for which a license is required by this chapter without alleging and proving that such person had a valid license at the time of making such agreement or performing such services.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §17.)

Section 34-25-32 Refusal, suspension, reprimand, probation, or revocation - Grounds.

The board may refuse to issue a license, may issue oral or written reprimands to an examiner, may place an examiner on probation, or may suspend or revoke a license on any one or more of the following grounds:

- (1) Failing to inform a subject to be examined that his or her participation in the examination is voluntary;
- (2) Failing to inform a subject to be examined as to the nature of the examination;
- (3) Failing to inform the subject of the results of the examination if so requested;
- (4) Willful disregard or violation of this chapter or of any regulation or rule issued pursuant thereto, including, but not limited to, willfully making a false report concerning an examination for polygraph examination purposes;
- (5) Willfully aiding or abetting another in the violation of this chapter or any regulation or rule issued pursuant thereto;
- (6) Having demonstrated unworthiness or incompetency to act as a polygraph examiner as defined by this chapter;
- (7) Making any willful misrepresentation or false promises or causing to be permitted any false or misleading advertisement for the purpose of directly obtaining business or trainees;
- (8) Allowing one's license under this chapter to be used by any unlicensed person in violation of the provisions of this chapter;
- (9) If the holder of any license has been adjudged guilty of the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
- (10) Where the license holder has been adjudged a habitual drunkard or mentally incompetent as provided in the probate code;
- (11) Material misstatement in the application for original license or in the application of any renewal license under this chapter; or
- (12) Failing, within a reasonable time, to provide information requested by the board as the result of a formal complaint to the board which indicates a violation of this chapter.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §18; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Section 34-25-33 Refusal, suspension, reprimand, probation, or revocation - Violation by one examiner or trainee not to affect employer.

Any unlawful act or violation of any of the provisions of this chapter on the part of any polygraph examiner or trainee shall not be cause for revocation of the license of any other polygraph examiner for whom the offending examiner or trainee may have been employed unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the board that the polygraph examiner-employer has willfully or negligently aided or abetted the illegal actions or activities of the offending polygraph examiner or trainee.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §19.)

Section 34-25-34 Refusal, suspension, reprimand, probation, or revocation - Hearing.

(a) Where there is cause to refuse an application or to suspend or revoke the license of any polygraph examiner, the board shall, not less than 30 days before refusal, suspension, or revocation action is taken, notify such person in writing, in person or by registered or certified mail at the last address supplied to the board by such person, of such impending refusal, suspension, or revocation, the reasons therefor and of his or her right to an administrative hearing for the purpose of determining whether or not the evidence is sufficient to warrant the refusal, suspension, or revocation action proposed to be taken by the board. If, within 20 days after the personal service of such notice or such notice has been deposited in the United States mail, such person has not made a written request to the board for this administrative hearing, the board is authorized to suspend or revoke the polygraph examiner's license of such person without a hearing. Upon receipt by the board of such written request of such person within 20 days as set out above, an opportunity for an administrative hearing shall be afforded as early as is practicable. In no case shall the hearing be held less than 10 days after written notification thereof, including a copy of the charges, shall have been given the person by personal service or by registered or certified mail sent to the last address supplied to the board by the applicant or licensee. The administrative hearing in such cases shall be before the board.

(b) The board shall conduct the administrative hearing and it is authorized to administer oaths and issue subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books, papers, documents, etc. On the basis of the evidence submitted at the hearing, the board shall take whatever action it deems necessary in refusing the application or suspending or revoking the license.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §21.)

Section 34-25-35 Refusal, suspension, reprimand, probation, or revocation - Judicial review.

Any person dissatisfied with the action of the board in refusing his application or suspending or revoking his license, or any other action of the board, may appeal the action of the board by filing a petition within 30 days thereafter in the circuit court in the county where the person resides or in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama, and the court is vested with jurisdiction and it shall be the duty of the court to set the matter for hearing upon 10-days' written notice to the board and the attorney representing the board. The court in which the petition of appeal is filed shall determine whether or not a cancellation or suspension of a license shall be abated until the hearing shall have been consummated with final judgment thereon or whether any other action of the board should be suspended pending hearing, and enter its order accordingly, which shall be operative when served upon the board, and the court shall provide the attorney representing the board with a copy of the petition and order. The board shall be represented in such appeals by the district attorney of the county or the Attorney General, or any of their assistants. The board shall initially determine all facts, but the court upon appeal shall set aside the determination of the board if the board's determination:

- (1) Is not based upon substantial evidence upon the entire record;
- (2) Is arbitrary or capricious;
- (3) Is in violation of statutory requirement; or
- (4) Was made without affording the licensee or applicant due process of law.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §22.)

Section 34-25-36 Refusal, suspension, reprimand, probation, or revocation - Surrender of license.

Upon the revocation or suspension of any license, the licensee shall forthwith surrender the license or licenses to the board; failure of a licensee to do so shall be a violation of this chapter and, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this chapter. At any time after the suspension or revocation of any license, the board shall restore it to the former licensee upon the written recommendations of the board.

(Acts 1971, No. 2056, p. 3307, §23; Acts 1989, No. 89-269, p. 416, §3.)

Appendix II: Professional Services by Vendor

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Data Processing				
<i>Data Processing</i>				
Office of Information Technology	\$271.45	\$161.40	\$209.82	\$193.68
<i>SBS Billing</i>				
Department of Finance	509.50	416.00	481.50	402.20
<i>Finance and IT Planning/Oversight</i>				
Office of Information Technology	51.48	28.60	37.18	42.92
<i>Comptroller Services</i>				
Department of Finance	862.11	963.00	871.00	1,071.00
Total Data Processing	1,694.54	1,569.00	1,599.50	1,709.80
Administrative Services				
<i>Advertising</i>				
Legislative Services Agency				100.00
<i>Information and Research Service</i>				
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency	981.25	344.25	114.75	335.50
<i>Mailing Services</i>				
Department of Finance	9.70	9.51	9.68	
<i>Personnel Department Services</i>				
Personnel Department	408.00	836.00	443.00	450.00
Total Administrative Services	1,398.95	1,189.76	567.43	885.50
Total Professional Services	\$3,093.49	\$2,758.76	\$2,166.93	\$2,595.30

Appendix III: Board Members

**STATE OF ALABAMA
POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS BOARD
301 S RIPLEY ST MONTGOMERY AL 36104
PO BOX 1511 MONTGOMERY AL 36102-1511
334-676-7619**

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory Turley, Chairman
Gerone Grant, Vice Chairman
Kathy Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer
W. T. Merritt, Member
Joe R. Brown, Member

BOARD CONSULTANTS
Earl Jones, Psychologist
Brian Williams, Attorney

February 19, 2026

Department of Examiners of Public Accounts
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280
Montgomery AL 36104-4338
Attn: Gerald Dedon

As requested by your letter, the Alabama Polygraph Board submits the following list of current board members.

Gerone Grant – Acting Chair
Phenix City, AL 36869
December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2027

Kathy Pierce
Huntsville, AL 35811-8214
March 18, 2025 – March 17, 2029

Joe Brown Jr.
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
Term: December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2027

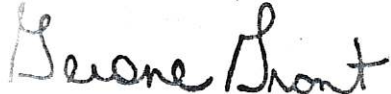
James Spears
Cullman, AL 35055
Term: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2027

Charles Hedrick
Montgomery AL 36104
Term: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2027

Consultants

Brian Williams
Huntsville, AL 35802
Term: December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2029

Earl Jones
Dothan, AL 36303
Term: December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2028



Gerone Grant
Vice Chairman

Appendix IV: Board's Response

**STATE OF ALABAMA
POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS BOARD
301 S RIPLEY ST MONTGOMERY AL 36104
PO BOX 1511 MONTGOMERY AL 36102-1511
334-676-7619**

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Brian Williams - Attorney
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July 14, 2026

Matter of Concern 2026-001: Eleven of the thirty-four (32%) licensees responding to our survey indicated Voice Stress Analysis is the most significant issue facing their profession. One stating it is a non-scientific process and one indicating it is unreliable compared to a polygraph examination.

The Alabama Board of Polygraph Examiners (ABPE) is pleased to report that there are currently no significant issues requiring immediate attention and that previously identified concerns have been satisfactorily resolved. The Board remains committed to serving the interests of its licensees, protecting the public, and preserving the integrity of the polygraph profession in the State of Alabama.

In Response to this matter of concern 2026-001:

One issue, however, continues to be raised consistently by both licensed polygraph examiners and members of the Board: the ongoing use of Voice Stress Analysis (VSA), also referred to as Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA), within the State of Alabama.

CVSA is a form of deception detection that is purported to identify deception by analyzing fluctuations in an individual's voice patterns. Compared to a traditional polygraph examination, CVSA requires substantially less training, is less expensive to purchase and operate, and is simpler to administer. However, the scientific reliability of CVSA has been widely questioned. Its accuracy is commonly regarded as no better than chance—often described as equivalent to the odds of flipping a coin.

Alabama law establishes minimum standards for the instrumentation used to monitor physiological responses during examinations conducted for the purpose of determining deception. CVSA equipment does not satisfy these statutory requirements because it does not measure the physiological responses required by law. Consequently, the use of CVSA as a standalone instrument for deception detection does not comply with Alabama's statutory standards.

Additionally, Alabama law requires that any individual conducting examinations for the purpose of determining deception be properly licensed. These licensing requirements exist to protect both the public and the profession from fraud, abuse, and unqualified practice.

The Board's primary concern is that numerous law enforcement agencies throughout Alabama have purchased and continue to utilize CVSA equipment as a means of detecting deception, despite the statutory requirements governing such examinations.

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Matter of Concern 2026-001 (continued)

Although ABPE has made repeated efforts over several years to address this matter, including meetings with public officials and requests for assistance from various agencies, our enforcement authority is limited. As a result, meaningful enforcement has proven difficult, and what began as a statutory compliance issue has increasingly become a matter influenced by policy and political considerations. This remains the principal concern expressed by our licensees. The Board will continue working to address this issue and welcomes the assistance of any agency or official who shares the board's commitment to ensuring compliance with Alabama law.

Alabama has long been recognized as a national leader in the polygraph profession, maintaining some of the most rigorous licensing requirements and statutory standards in the country. The Board is committed to preserving that reputation by upholding the integrity of the profession, supporting qualified examiners, and protecting the citizens of Alabama through the consistent enforcement of the laws governing deception detection.

James Tim Spears
Chairman
Alabama Board of Polygraph Examiners