



Sunset Report
**Alabama Board
for Registration
of Architects**
Montgomery, Alabama

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

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September 16, 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 Alabama Board for Registration of Architects 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 Alabama Board for Registration of Architects 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
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PROFILE

Purpose/Authority

The Alabama Board for Registration of Architects (the “Board”) was created by Act Number 1979-676, Acts of Alabama, to examine, register, and regulate architects in the state. Current statutory authority for the Board is found in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 34-2-30 through 34-2-43.

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

Act Number 2024-379, Acts of Alabama, relating to the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects to amend Sections 34-2-33, 34-2-34, 34-2-35, 34-2-36, 34-2-37, 34-2-38, 34-2-39, 34-2-40, and 34-2-41, *Code of Alabama 1975*; to repeal Section 34-2-42, *Code of Alabama 1975*; and to add Section 34-2-43 to the *Code of Alabama 1975*, to further provide for the duties of the Board and to further regulate the practice of architecture by entities; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to current style.

<u>Characteristics</u>	
Members and Selection	The Board consists of six members appointed by the Governor from a list of three individuals selected by a six-member nominating committee from each district. • One member from the northern district. • Two members from the north central district. • Two members from central district. • One member from the southern district. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-38
Term	Members serve four-year terms and serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-38
Qualifications	All members of the Board shall be registered and licensed architects. Each member must reside and have his or her principal office in the district from which they are appointed. A member’s place on the Board shall become vacant if the member removes either his or her residence or principal office from that district. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-2-38

Consumer Representation	No specific statutory requirement.
Racial Representation	No specific statutory requirement. One minority member currently serving.
Geographical Representation	The Board's members shall be appointed from the following districts: • <u>Northern District</u> - comprised of Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston counties. • <u>North Central District</u> - comprised of Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties. • <u>Central District</u> - comprised of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Wilcox counties. • <u>Southern District</u> - comprised of Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington counties. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-38
Other Representation	The Governor shall select persons whose appointments, to the extent possible, ensure that the membership of the Board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-38
Compensation	Board members shall receive a per diem, as recommended by the Board and in accordance with applicable state laws, for participation in both in-person and virtual sessions of the Board or its committees, as well as for travel time required to attend these meetings. Additionally, each Board member will be reimbursed for necessary travel and related expenses incurred while performing official duties. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-41 The Board members receive \$200 for each day the Board member attends meetings (either virtual or in person) as a representative of the Board, including associated travel days. <i>Administrative Rule</i> 100-X-1-.05

Attended Board Member Training	Three current Board members Executive Director One former staff member Board's Attorney
<u>Operations</u>	
Administrator	Paula Pilgreen serves as the Board's Executive Director. She was appointed by the Board and has a current annual salary of \$97,716.00, set by the Board and approved by the Governor. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-2-40
Location	445 Dexter Avenue, Suite 4010 Montgomery, AL 36104 Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..
Real Property Ownership	The Board does not own any real property.
Employees	Three
Legal Counsel	Tara Hetzel, Civil Division Chief, employee of the Attorney General's Office serves as the Board's legal counsel.
Subpoena Power	The Board shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses, to require production of documents, to administer oaths, and to take testimony and proof concerning all matters within its jurisdiction. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-2-39
Internet Presence	www.boa.alabama.gov The Board's website presents its mission, governance, and regulatory duties, with news and official updates in a dedicated section. Content is organized for Consumers, Applicants, and includes Laws, Rules, and Forms. Minutes of the Board's meetings and links to relevant organizations and resources are also available.

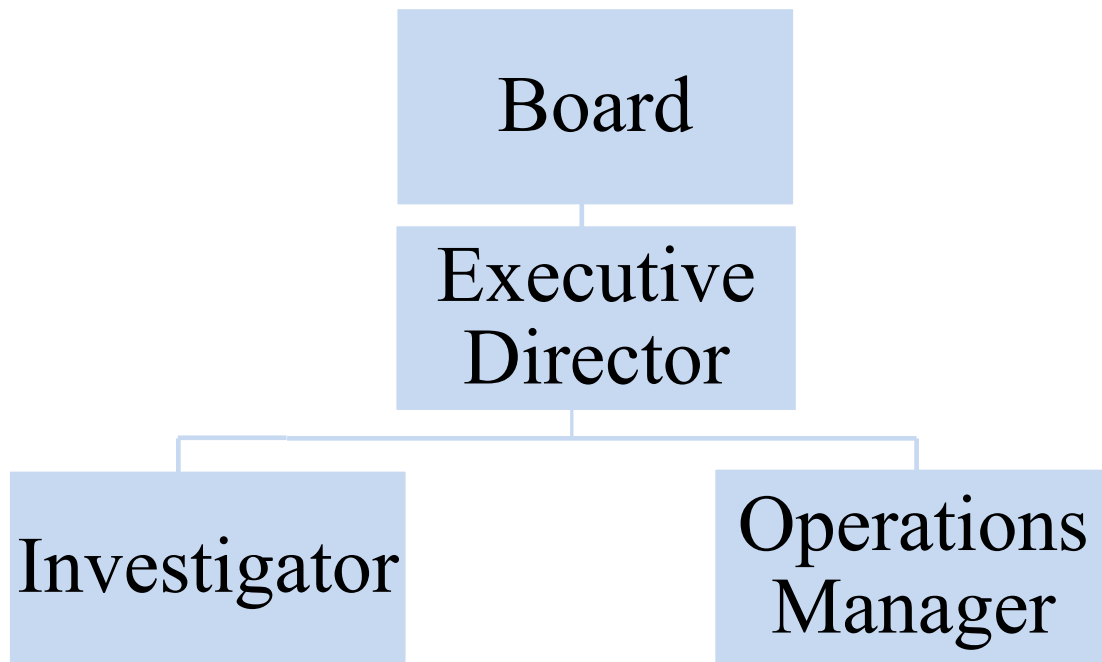
<u>Financial</u>															
Source of Funds	Licensing fees, fines and penalties.														
State Treasury	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 0353. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-2-41														
Required Distributions	None.														
Unused Funds	The Board retains unused funds at fiscal year-end. The Board is allowed to make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution that has a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited school of architecture for assistance in promoting education and research programs in architecture. Details of the grants awarded can be found in the Financial Information section of this report. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-2-41(e)														
<u>Licensure</u>															
Licensees	As of February 25, 2026: <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Registrations</th></tr> <tr> <td>In-State</td><td>868</td></tr> <tr> <td>Out-of-State</td><td>2,619</td></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Certificates of Authorization</th></tr> <tr> <td>In-State</td><td>199</td></tr> <tr> <td>Out-of-State</td><td>691</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>4,377</td></tr> </table> <i>Source:</i> Executive Director	Registrations		In-State	868	Out-of-State	2,619	Certificates of Authorization		In-State	199	Out-of-State	691	Total	4,377
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Certificates of Authorization															
In-State	199														
Out-of-State	691														
Total	4,377														

Licensure Qualifications	Applicants must submit applications on Board-prescribed forms and pay an application fee as set by the Board. Upon review of the application, the Board will notify the applicant of any examination requirements. • An applicant may receive registration without examination if they hold an unexpired National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) certificate. • Unless exempt, applicants must take and pass the professional examination administered or approved by the Board. If an examination is required, the following must be shown: ○ Graduation from a National Architectural Accrediting Board accredited architecture program of a length determined by the Board. ○ Additional practical experience under the responsible control of registered architects, as required by Board rule. • Applicants who do not meet the standard education/experience path may qualify through an NCARB-endorsed combination of education, experience, and examination approved by the Board. • All applicants for registration by examination must complete the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) training requirements consistent with guidelines established by the NCARB with the provision that applicants whose initial home licensure jurisdiction is Alabama, may earn up to 1860 AXP experience hours with an Alabama located, NCARB approved, "Community Based Design Center/Collaborative." <i>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-33</i> <i>Administrative Rule 100-X-2-.03</i>
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Examinations	Applicants for licensure take the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). The ARE is a national computerized exam developed, administered and graded by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The exam is administered at Professional Services Industries (PSI) Testing Centers. PSI has testing centers throughout the nation and in 140 countries. The testing centers in Alabama are in Athens, Daleville, Decatur, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile (2), Montgomery, and Vestavia Hills. Exams can also be proctored online through PSI allowing testing to be done at an applicant’s residence, place of work, etc. The following are the examination pass rates for Alabama candidates for the calendar years noted: <table><tr><th>Calendar Year</th><th># Taken</th><th># Passed</th><th>% Passed</th></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>180</td><td>103</td><td>57%</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>175</td><td>109</td><td>62%</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>164</td><td>85</td><td>52%</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>109</td><td>59</td><td>54%</td></tr></table> The following educational institutions in Alabama offer a program for Architecture: Auburn University, Tuskegee University, and Samford University. Samford University’s program is newly established and has not yet graduated any students who are eligible to sit for the licensure examination. Source: Executive Director Pass percentages for Alabama educational institutions are shown in Appendix III of this report.	Calendar Year	# Taken	# Passed	% Passed	2022	180	103	57%	2023	175	109	62%	2024	164	85	52%	2025	109	59	54%
Calendar Year	# Taken	# Passed	% Passed																		
2022	180	103	57%																		
2023	175	109	62%																		
2024	164	85	52%																		
2025	109	59	54%																		
Reciprocity	The Board may issue to an applicant, without further examination, a certificate of registration as an architect, provided the applicant holds an unexpired certificate issued to him or her by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-2-33																				

Renewals	Registrations expire annually on December 31 following their issuance or renewal and shall become invalid on January 1. Registrations can be renewed late between January 1 and March 31 each year upon payment of a penalty but lapse if not renewed by March 31. 100% of the renewals were completed online. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-33 <i>Administrative Rules</i> 100-X-2-.10
Licensee Demographics	Data is not available.
Continuing Education	A minimum of 12 hours of structured continuing education is required each calendar year. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-2-39 <i>Administrative Rule</i> 100-X-3-.03

ORGANIZATION



PERSONNEL

Employees

Schedule of Employees By Merit System Classification/Sex/Race					
	#	W/M	W/F	Salary or Salary Range	Vehicle Assigned
<u>Unclassified</u>					
Executive Director	1		1	\$97,716.00	1
<u>Exempt</u>					
Operations Manager	1		1	\$54,052.80	
Investigator	1	1		\$78,120.00	1
Total	3	1	2		2

W/M = White Male, W/F = White Female,

The vehicle assigned to the Executive Director is used for commuting. The vehicle assigned to the Board's Investigator is used when performing investigations around the state.

Legal Counsel

Tara Hetzel, Civil Division Chief, of the Alabama Attorney General's Office serves as legal counsel for the Board. The Board has an interagency agreement with the Attorney General's Office to provide legal assistance for the issues presented for review. The agreement is effective January 1, 2025, and terminates March 31, 2027. The pay rate is \$150.00 per hour for attorneys and \$50.00 per hour for paralegal services, for all time spent providing legal services to or on behalf of the Board. The agreement also stipulates the Board agrees to compensate the Attorney General's Office for travel at the same rate as state employees.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Number of Licensees for the Past Four Fiscal Years

According to the Board's Executive Director, the Board's licensing system only allows the Board to retrieve the current number of licensees and does not allow the Board to retrieve the number of licensees from prior fiscal years.

Number of Licensees/Certificate of Authorization per Employee (FY 2025) – 1,459

Operating Disbursements per Licensee (FY 2025) - \$120.26

Fines/Penalties as a Percentage of Operating Receipts

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Receipts	\$538,175.00	\$548,955.00	\$565,584.06	\$571,891.35
Fines	\$1,650.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
Percentage	0.31%	0.27%	0.13%	0.26%

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. The Board notifies the licensees of rule updates by posting proposed rule changes on their website.

COMPLAINT HANDLING

The Board's complaint process authorized by *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-2-36 is described in its *Administrative Rules* 100-X-6-.01 through 100-X-6-.05.

Initial Contact/ Documentation	Anyone can file a complaint with the Board. The Board shall supply a complaint form to the public to assist in providing information outlining the nature of the complaint. All complaints shall be in writing. The complainant is notified by letter when the complaint is received.
Anonymous Complaints Accepted	No
Investigative Process/Probable Cause Determination	A Board member, the Executive Director, and the Board's legal counsel shall form the Probable Cause Committee, who determines whether the complaint falls under the purview of the Board and whether there is probable cause to believe that a violation of the Board's statutes or regulations has occurred. The investigating Board member is no longer involved in the complaint, except as a witness.
Negotiated Settlements	Yes
Notification of Resolution to the Complainant	Complainants are notified by mail.

Source: Executive Director

Complaint Data

Schedule of Complaints Resolved Fiscal Year 2022 through 2025						
Year/Number of Complaints Received	Year/Number Resolved					Pending
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (1)	
2022 / 2						2
2023 / 3				1		2
2024 / 2				1		1
2025 / 7				4		3
2026 / 1						1
(1) As of March 3, 2026						
Source: Executive Director						

Average Time to Resolve Complaints - 232 business days.

Complaints Pending Over One Year – As of March 3, 2026, 7 of the 9 (78%) open/pending complaints had been open/pending from sixteen to forty-five months. The Board’s Executive Director explained that the reason for the longstanding open/pending complaints was due to the Board’s inability to keep an investigator on staff. Despite its efforts, the Board was without an investigator for 21 months of the Sunset review period. (See *Significant Issue 2026-001*.)

Disposition of Resolved Complaints

Number of Complaints	Resolution
3	Consent Agreement - \$500.00 Fine
3	No Violation

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, fines and penalties are deposited into the Alabama Board of Registration for Architect Boards's Special Revenue Fund maintained in the State's Treasury.

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-2-41 provides that the Board may make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution that has NAAB accredited school of architecture for assistance in promoting education and research programs in architecture. The Board awarded grants to the following universities:

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Auburn University	\$ 58,735.00	\$ 62,760.50	\$ 23,515.00	\$ 72,312.00
Tuskegee University ⁽¹⁾	16,855.00	0.00	7,239.50	12,573.00
Total	\$ 75,590.00	\$ 62,760.50	\$ 30,754.50	\$ 84,885.00

⁽¹⁾Grant amounts paid to Tuskegee University for FY2023 were paid in FY2024, grant amounts for FY2024 were paid in FY2025, and FY2025 were paid in FY2026. According to the Board's Executive Director, this is due to late requests from Tuskegee University.

Schedule of Fees

Fees are authorized in the Board's statutes and set in *Administrative Rule* 100-X-1-A1.

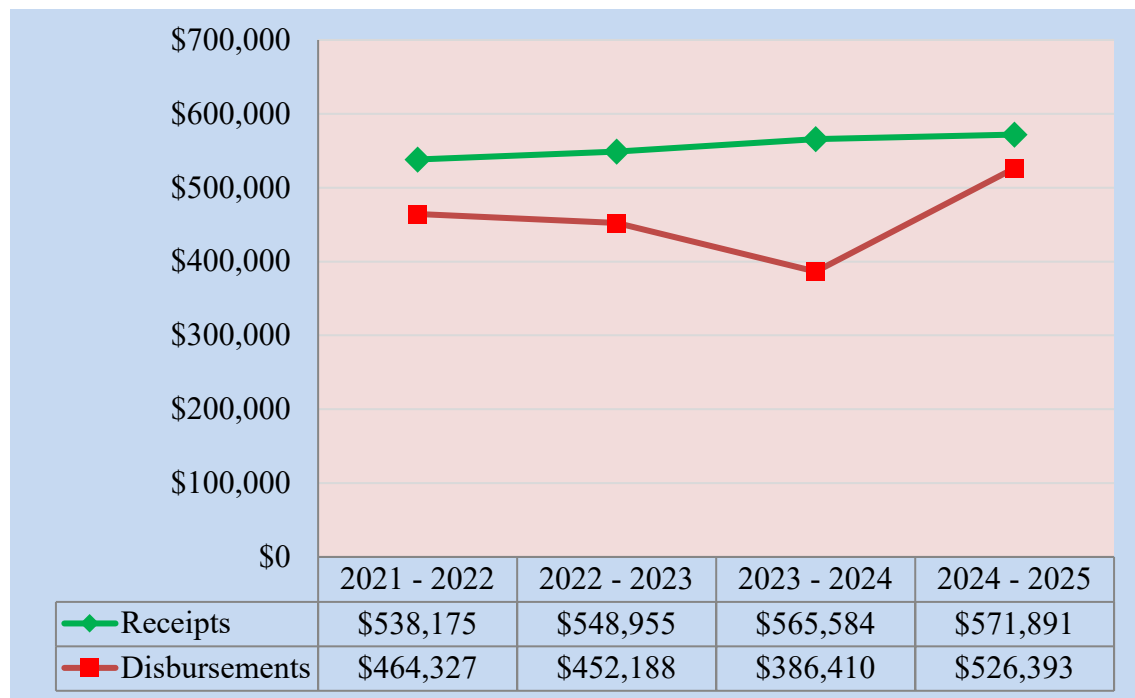
Fee Type/Purpose	Statutory Authority	Amount Authorized	Amount Collected
Registration by Reciprocity Fee	34-2-33(b)	Set by the Board	\$150.00
Registration Renewal Fee	34-2-33(f)	Set by the Board	\$135.00
Registration Renewal Late Fee	34-2-33(f)	Set by the Board	\$75.00
Registration by Reinstatement Fee	34-2-33(g)	Set by the Board	\$460.00
Certificate of Authorization Fee	34-2-37(a)(5)	Set by the Board	\$75.00
Certificate of Authorization Renewal Fee	34-2-37(d)	Set by the Board	\$75.00
Certificate of Authorization Late Penalty	34-2-37(e)	Set by the Board	\$50.00
Certificate of Authorization Reinstatement Fee	34-2-37(f)	Set by the Board	\$250.00
Returned Check Fee	8-8-15	≤ \$30.00	\$30.00

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>				
Architects	\$ 536,525.00	\$547,455.00	\$564,814.91	\$570,372.14
Contract Fees			0.41	2.61
Prior Year Refunds				12.54
Salvage Equipment or Other Property			18.74	4.06
Professional/Occupational Board Penalties	1,650.00	1,500.00	750.00	1,500.00
Total Receipts	<u>538,175.00</u>	<u>548,955.00</u>	<u>565,584.06</u>	<u>571,891.35</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>				
Personnel Costs	193,499.09	167,586.29	161,974.12	210,451.00
Employee Benefits	71,916.65	60,545.80	64,994.28	84,394.41
Travel, In-State	11,074.58	11,638.78	12,234.31	9,140.94
Travel, Out-of-State	10,492.83	5,262.59	9,952.16	8,990.74
Repairs & Maintenance	906.02	5,337.00	379.00	1,684.13
Rentals & Leases	45,613.70	48,694.38	46,071.12	52,681.64
Utilities & Communications	9,814.11	11,246.44	9,617.84	11,024.87
Professional Services	13,307.67	20,184.46	20,124.69	14,707.23
Supplies, Materials, & Operating Expenses	22,427.07	22,916.14	26,685.72	28,655.17
Transportation Equipment Operations	739.97	195.30	535.06	1,586.50
Grants & Benefits	75,590.00	62,760.50	30,754.50	84,885.00
Other Equipment Purchases	8,945.56	35,820.34	3,086.95	18,191.18
Total Disbursements	<u>464,327.25</u>	<u>452,188.02</u>	<u>386,409.75</u>	<u>526,392.81</u>
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	73,847.75	96,766.98	179,174.31	45,498.54
Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	513,153.12	587,000.87	683,767.85	862,942.16
Cash Balance at End of Year	<u>587,000.87</u>	<u>683,767.85</u>	<u>862,942.16</u>	<u>908,440.70</u>
Reserved for Year-End Obligations	<u>(8,418.73)</u>	<u>(44,190.96)</u>	<u>(116,621.90)</u>	<u>(85,253.82)</u>
Unobligated Cash Balance at End of Year	<u>\$ 578,582.14</u>	<u>\$ 639,576.89</u>	<u>\$ 746,320.26</u>	<u>\$823,186.88</u>

Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements

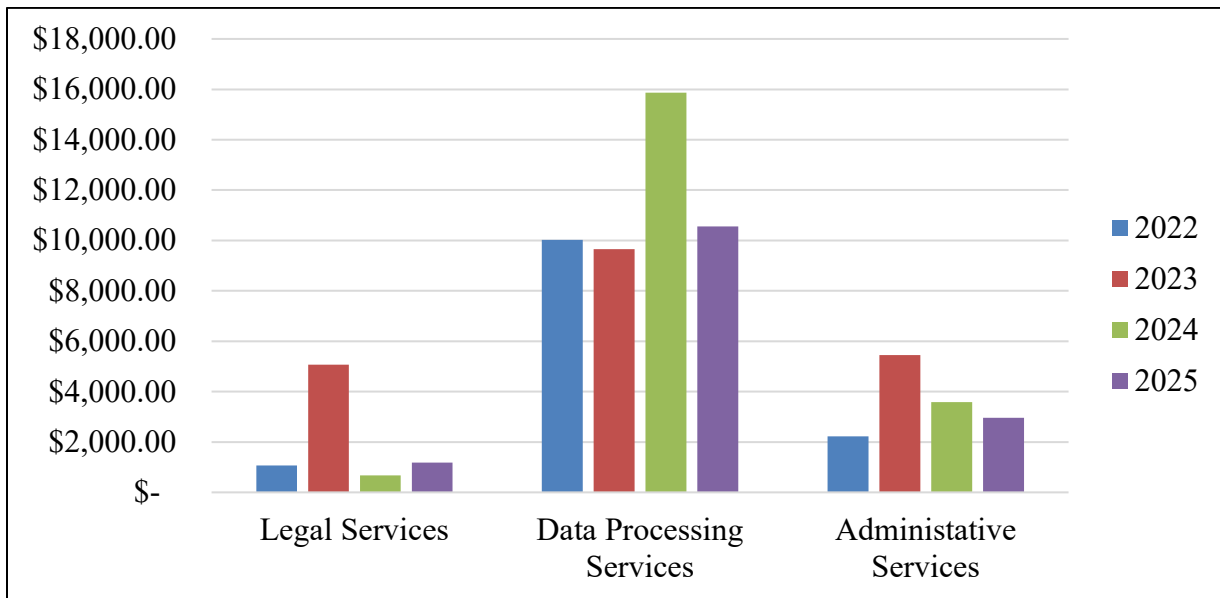


Summary Schedule of Professional Service Disbursements*

As of September 30 th				
Type of Service	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Legal Services	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 5,075.25	\$ 677.20	\$ 1,185.00
Data Processing Services	10,022.62	9,655.95	15,864.93	10,557.23
Administrative Services	2,220.05	5,453.26	3,582.56	2,965.00
Total	\$ 13,307.67	\$ 20,184.46	\$ 20,124.69	\$ 14,707.23

*Detailed information presented in Appendix II of this report.

Professional Service Disbursements



SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Significant Issue 2026-001: The Board has complaints that have been open for more than one year. The Board has nine open or pending complaints. Of these, seven (78%) have remained unresolved for a period ranging from sixteen to forty-five months. The Board was without an investigator from October 1, 2021 until July 18, 2022; then again from July 26, 2024 until June 16, 2025. The Board's Executive Director stated that there were concerns over the prior investigators' work. Therefore, when the current investigator was hired, the Board had him reinvestigate some complaints, stating that the Board could not close out the complaints until a good investigation had been performed.

STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Matter of Concern 2026-001: Four of the six Board members responded to our survey and the following matters were noted:

- Three of the four (75%) Board members think the threat of consolidation of state boards by the Legislature is the most significant issue facing their profession.
- Three of the four (75%) Board members do not think the Board is adequately staffed. One Board member stated the staff shortage was due to their inability to fill the full-time inspector position.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Board Member Questionnaire

A letter was sent to all six members of the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects requesting participation in our survey. Four 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 Alabama Board for Registration of Architects and how is the Board addressing these issues?

Board Member #1 – “In my opinion, the consistent threat of state board consolidation is the most significant issue facing our board. It has created a problem in hiring and maintaining personnel and has not proven to be effective in any other state for our discipline. Professional boards need dedicated and appointed staff who fully understand the work and rules established by the board.”

Board Member #2 – “During this current legislative session, and in the past two sessions, bills have been introduced that would consolidate boards such as the BOA (Board of Architecture) under one single administrative head. Should this legislation pass, the result would be disastrous for professional boards such as the BOA. We believe the citizens of Alabama deserve specialized and expert regulation. This is particularly true for the practice of architecture due to the complex nature of the profession. Safe buildings begin and end with an architect. The prospect of this legislation is already seriously hindering our hiring process. Specifically, we desperately need to fill in the vacant claims inspector position on our staff. However, top potential candidates have declined to apply citing the impact this legislation would have on the Board and the inability to properly execute the required duties of the position. We believe this legislation, if passed, would substantially decrease our ability to operate both effectively and efficiently. This legislation would substantially damage our ability to serve the citizens of the State of Alabama and undo the Board’s strong commitment to the public ... a commitment that was established in 1931 when the Board was founded. We are addressing this issue by making every effort to educate the Legislators regarding the implications of this legislation. We would appreciate the assistance of the Sunset Committee in this regard.”

Board Member #3 – “Providing authorities having jurisdiction to review plans and issue construction permits the necessary information to prevent the fraudulent practice of copying architects’ seals on plan submissions. Currently, we have reports of 2 instances where a set of plans have been submitted to city plan reviewers for permitting and the sealed drawings were in fact not prepared by the architect. The seal had been recreated (copied or stolen) unknow to the architect. Our Executive Director (ED) has more information on the specific occurrences currently being investigated.”

Board Member #4 – “Unlicensed practice (especially in rural areas of the state) continue to be an issue. We are in constant contact with the city building officials and the state fire marshal to assist in providing information, education, and enforcement. Fraud using other license architects stamps is an increasing issue since most drawings now are electronic. We are researching ways to assist local building officials in making sure submitted drawings and stamps are correct and legal.”

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

Board Member #1 – “None that I am aware of at this time. We recently had major "house cleaning" legislation to update our laws.”

Board Member #2 – “None”

Board Member #3 – “Currently, our ED and the Board are reviewing our laws to propose 2026-2027 changes, if any.”

Board Member #4 – “None at this time; however, to reduce fraud, we may need to address the process on how architect's stamp their electronic drawings.”

3. Do you think the Board is adequately funded?

Yes	4	100%
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4. Do you think the Board is adequately staffed?

Yes	1	25%
No	3	75%

5. Does the Board receive regular reports on its operations from the Executive Director?

Yes	4	100%
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6. Has the Board experienced any significant change to its operations?

No	4	100%
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7. Does the Board plan to make any significant changes to its operations?

No	3	75%
Unknown	1	25%

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

Board Member #1 – “No, thank you.”

Board Member #2 – “Under #4, I answered “no” due to our inability to fill the full-time inspection position. However, should that position be filled our staff needs would be fully met. We do not need additional positions.”

Board Member #3 – “Our Board is necessary to make sure we have qualified architects protecting public health, life safety and welfare.”

Board Member #4 – “Our Executive Director, [REDACTED], is doing an excellent job. She manages the operations well, maintains open and clear finances, taking careful management of our budget. We are able to give back to the state's architectural schools (Tuskegee and Auburn) each year, which assists their students for future success in licensure. I am very concerned about the possibility of consolidation of our Board with others in the state. I cannot imagine an overall organization having the time and specific knowledge and expertise of the practice of architecture that [REDACTED] has. Especially in the coming months and years with technology advancing at record pace, we are going to be facing legal & fraud challenges even more than ever. Thank you for your time and consideration in these comments. My hope is that they will be helpful in your review.”

Licensee Questionnaire

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting participation in our survey. Seventeen 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 – “The trespass of engineers and interior designers on the profession of architecture. These disciplines are not equal to the rigor and experience of a professional architect.”

Respondent #2 – “Health, safety and welfare.”

Respondent #3 – “No Comment”

Respondent #4 – “The lack of new specifications writers as the remainder of us slowly fade away.”

Respondent #5 – “Overwork and underappreciation.”

Respondent #6 – “Helping our clients navigate a high-inflation construction environment. Both in helping them to re-adjust their expectations and in finding significant ways to cut cost.”

Respondent #7 – “Licensing without enough Professional practical experience.”

Respondent #8 – “N/A”.

Respondent #9 – “Decrease in skilled labor and assumption of risk on behalf of the architect rather than the builder.”

Respondent #10 – “Lack of understanding of what an architect does and the services they provide.”

Respondent #11 – “Maintaining the health, safety and welfare of the client and community at large.”

Respondent #12 – “Unsure”

Respondent #13 – “No Significant issues. It has been good so far.”

Respondent #14 – “Architectural work including preliminary design being done by non-licensed persons including design-build firms, and out of state "franchise architects" performing new and remodeling design work without ever having visited the site and/or having zero "intimate" knowledge of any existing conditions.”

Respondent #15 – “completion from un-licensed people.”

Respondent #16 – “Lack of project delivery options for public work, other states in our surrounding area have implemented a variety of effective delivery options suited to differing project types, sizes, and complexity.

Respondent #17 – “n/a”.

- 2. Do you think regulation of your profession by the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects is necessary to protect the public welfare?**

Yes	17	100%
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- 3. Do you think any of the Board's laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of your profession?**

Yes	2	12%
No	11	65%
Unknown	4	23%

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

Yes	16	94%
Unknown	1	6%

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

Yes	14	82%
No	3	18%

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

Yes	11	65%
Unknown	6	35%

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

Yes	17	100%
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8. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “Architects are a carefully regulated profession and should be accorded the professional credentials and standing to match. Architecture degrees should not be delisted as a professional degree, which will make it harder for students to receive scholarships and training.”

Respondent #2 – “none”.

Respondent #3 – “No.”

Respondent #4 – “In my opinion the board does an excellent and necessary job of maintaining the standards of our profession. Where the rules are broken, bad things tend to happen.”

Respondent #5 – “No”.

Respondent #6 – “no.”

Respondent #7 – “none.”

Respondent #8 – “N/A.”

Respondent #9 – “The board has recently transitioned to online license and COA renewal system which has been very helpful.”

Respondent #10 – “A State Board of Architecture requires architects to maintain a level of professionalism and quality of work to provide their clients with better documents to achieve the construction results from the General Contractor their clients demand as well as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public from dangerous and incompetent construction. To even consider removing a licensing board is worse than ignorance but foolish. This relaxation of requirements will jeopardize the public's health, safety and welfare in exchange for saving a few dollars in design fees in the overall scope of projects. However, reviewing over regulation and government overreach is a necessity and good for the future of architects and the public they serve. Annual review of over regulation should occur on an annual basis based on empirical evidence from completed projects to avoid Alabama ending up like [REDACTED] which is the archetypal example of government overreach and over regulation.”

Respondent #11 – “no”.

Respondent #12 – “No”.

Respondent #13 – “No additional comments”.

Respondent #14 – “None as this time”.

Respondent #15 – “no”.

Respondent #16 – “Thanks for all you do, it is important to the profession and to protecting public welfare in regard to buildings and structures.”

Respondent #17 – “n/a”.

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

Yes	1	100%
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4. Do you think the Board did everything it could to resolve your complaint?

Yes	1	100%
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5. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “No”

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Applicable Statutes

Section 34-2-30 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed by this section:

- (1) ARCHITECT. An individual who is legally qualified to practice architecture.
- (2) BUILDING. A structure consisting of foundation, walls, or supports and roof, with or without related components, systems, or other parts comprising a completed building ready for occupancy.
- (3) PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE or PRACTICING ARCHITECTURE. Performing or doing, or offering or attempting to do or perform any service, work, act, or thing within the scope of the practice of architecture. An individual shall be construed to hold himself or herself out as practicing architecture when, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or any other way, the individual represents himself or herself to be an architect with or without qualifying adjective, or when he or she implies that he or she is an architect through the use of some other title.
- (4) PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE. When an individual holds himself or herself out as able to render or when the person does render any service by consultations, investigations, evaluations, preliminary studies, plans, specifications, contract documents, and a coordination of all factors concerning the design and observation of construction of buildings or any other service in connection with the design, observation, or construction of buildings located within the boundaries of the state, regardless of whether such services are performed in connection with one or all of these duties, or whether they are performed in person or as the directing head of an office or organization performing them.
- (5) RESPONSIBLE CONTROL. Control over all phases of the practice of architecture, including, but not limited to, control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by registered architects applying the required professional standard of care.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §1; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

Section 34-2-31 Declaration Of Policy; Chapter Liberally Construed; Compliance With Chapter Required.

Architects and the practice of architecture are hereby declared to affect the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the architectural profession merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified architects be permitted to practice architecture in the State of Alabama. All provisions of this chapter relating to the practice of architecture shall be liberally construed to carry out these objects and purposes.

In order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare, no person shall practice architecture in this state, or use the title "architect" or any title, sign, card, or device to indicate that such person is practicing architecture or is an architect unless such person shall thereafter comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §2.)

Section 34-2-32 Registered Architect's Services Required; Employees; Exemptions; Interprofessional Privileges Between Architects And Professional Engineers.

(a) Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent:

(1) Employees of registered architects from acting under the instructions or responsible control of their employers; or,

(2) The employment of on-site observers of the construction or alteration of buildings.

(b) No person shall be required to register as an architect in order to make plans and specifications for or administer the erection, enlargement, or alteration of any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, irrespective of the cost of such building, or any single family residence building or any utility works, structures, or building, provided that the person performing such architectural works is employed by an electric, gas, or telephone public utility regulated pursuant to the laws of Alabama or by a corporation affiliated with such utility, or of any other type building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square feet provided it is not intended for use as a school, church, auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly occupancy of people.

(c) The services of a registered architect shall be required on all buildings except those hereinabove exempted and no official of this state or of any city, town, or county herein charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances, or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of buildings, shall accept or approve any plans or specifications that are not so prepared.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered professional engineers or their employees or subordinates under their responsible control from performing architectural services incidental to their engineering practice. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered architects or their employees or subordinates under their responsible control from performing engineering services incidental to their architectural practice.

No professional engineer shall practice architecture or use the designation architect or any terms derived therefrom unless that individual is registered pursuant to this chapter. No architect shall practice professional engineering or use the term engineer or any term derived therefrom unless that individual is also qualified and registered as an engineer.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §3; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

Section 34-2-33 Registration; Issuance of Certificate; Qualifications; Renewal, Etc.

(a) The board shall receive applications for registration as an architect only on forms prescribed and furnished by the board.

(1) Upon receipt of the application and the payment of a fee, as established by the board by rule, the board shall promptly notify the applicant of examination requirements for registration, if applicable.

(2) The board may contract with an independent testing agency to prepare, grade, or conduct the examination. If the board determines the applicant requires examination, the applicant shall pay the actual cost of the examination directly to the board-authorized testing agency.

(b) The board may issue to an applicant, without further examination, a certificate of registration as an architect, provided the applicant holds an unexpired certificate issued to him or her by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

(c)(1) The following facts established in the application shall be regarded as prima facie evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is fully qualified to be examined for registration:

a. Graduation after a course of study of a length as the board by rule shall determine from a school or college of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB); and

b. An additional period of practical experience in architectural work under the responsible control of a registered architect or architects as the board by rule shall deem appropriate.

(2) If the applicant is unable to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (1), the applicant may demonstrate appropriate qualifications by a combination of education, experience, and examination endorsed by NCARB and approved by the board.

(d) Unless exempted, applicants shall take and pass the professional examination administered by the board or an independent testing agency approved by the board.

(e)(1) Certificates for registration shall expire on December 31 following their issuance or renewal and shall become invalid on January 1 unless renewed.

(2) Certificates of registrants who are or may be in the Armed Forces of the United States shall not expire until December 31 following the discharge or final separation of the registrant from the Armed Forces of the United States.

(f)(1) Renewal may be accomplished at any time prior to or during the month of December by the payment of a fee established by rule of the board.

(2) A penalty established by rule of the board may be added to the renewal fee for failure to renew a certificate upon such terms and conditions as the board may by rule determine. Failure to renew a certificate of registration by March 31 shall result in a lapse of registration.

(g) A registrant whose certificate of registration has lapsed may have it reinstated, if in compliance with other relevant requirements, by filing a reinstatement application and paying, in addition to the appropriate renewal fee and late penalty, a reinstatement fee established by rule of the board.

(h) There is created a status to be known as “emeritus status architect,” which shall apply to architects who have been registered for 10 consecutive years or longer, who are 65 years of age or older, and who have retired from active practice. If an emeritus status architect subsequently wishes to practice, he or she may do so without penalty by proper application to the board.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §4; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Acts 1995, No. 95-281, p. 514, §3, Act 99-159, p. 216, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1; Act 2015-96, p. 310, §3; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-34 Refusal, Revocation, or Suspension of Certificate; Grounds; Hearing; Appeal.

(a) The board shall have the following disciplinary powers:

(1) To issue cease and desist letters to persons who are practicing architecture without a license.

(2) To issue reprimands to any licensee who violates any provision of this chapter or the rules of the board.

(3) To levy administrative fines for serious violations of this chapter or the rules of the board of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day the violation continues, but in no event shall an administrative fine exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) total per violation.

(4) To refuse to issue a certificate, to suspend a certificate for a definite period, or to revoke the certificate of registration of an architect who is found guilty of any of the following:

a. Any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration as determined by the board at a hearing.

b. Gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of architecture as determined by the board at a hearing.

c. A felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction.

d. Practicing architecture in this state in violation of the standards of professional conduct established by the board.

e. Practicing architecture in this or any other state or country in violation of the laws of that state or country.

f. Aiding or abetting any individual, partnership, or corporation to engage in the practice of architecture in violation of any provisions of law.

(b) Pursuant to subsection (a), notice of the nature of the charges placed against an architect and the time and place of hearing these charges by the board must be sent to the accused by certified mail, with return receipt requested, and addressed to his or her last known place of business, or residence, not less than 30 days before the date fixed for such hearing. The notice shall inform the individual that he or she is entitled to be represented by counsel of his or her choosing at the hearing, to have witnesses testify on his or her behalf at the hearing, to confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing, and to testify on his or her own behalf at the hearing.

(c) In all cases of reprimand, administrative fine, refusal, suspension, or revocation of a certificate of registration, or any other disciplinary action of the board, the accused may appeal to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama. Either party, the accused or the board, has the right to appeal from the final decree of the circuit court as provided by law.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §5; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Acts 1993, No. 93-614, p. 1006, §1(10); Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-35 Seal of Registrant; Violations.

(a) Each registrant must obtain a seal of a design authorized by the board bearing the registrant's name, the legend registered architect, the words "State of Alabama," and the registrant's license registration number.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a registered architect from being employed by a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or professional corporation.

(c) Plans, specifications, plates, and reports, and all documents prepared by an architect which are issued by a registrant must be stamped with the seal during the life of a registrant's certificate.

(d) It shall be unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with the seal after the certificate or the registrant named thereon has expired or been suspended or revoked.

(e) It shall be unlawful for an architect or any other individual to stamp, to cause to be stamped, or to allow to be stamped any document or documents which were not prepared under the responsible control of the registered architect whose stamp is to be affixed thereon.

(f)(1) On or after July 22, 1987, it shall be unlawful:

a. To practice architecture in a branch office not under the day-to-day supervision of a registered architect.

b. For an architect to falsely represent himself or herself as being in responsible control of architectural work or to permit his or her seal, or image thereof, to be used by another for any purpose.

(2) Violations described in subdivision (1) shall be penalized as provided in Section 34-2-36.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §6; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-36 Penalties; Hearing; Enforcement; Appeal.

(a) Any person who knowingly, willfully, or intentionally violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Each day of violation shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.

(b) When it appears to the board that any person is violating this chapter, the board may in its own name bring an action in the circuit court for an injunction, and the court may enjoin any person from violating this chapter regardless of whether the proceedings have been or may be instituted before the board or whether criminal proceedings have been or may be instituted.

(c) In addition to any other provisions of law, the board may enter an order assessing a civil penalty against any nonregistered individual, corporation, or other entity found guilty by the board of, but not limited to, the following violations of this chapter:

(1) Engaging in the practice or offer to practice architecture in this jurisdiction without being registered in accordance with this chapter.

(2) Using or employing the words architect, architecture, or any modification or derivative thereof in its name or form of business activity, except as authorized in this chapter.

(3) Presenting to the board or attempting to use the certificate of registration or the seal of another registered architect to obtain or attempt to obtain a certificate of registration.

(4) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the board in obtaining or attempting to obtain a certificate of registration.

(5) Falsely impersonating another registered architect of like or different name.

(6) Using or attempting to use a revoked or nonexistent certificate of registration.

(7) Directing the professional judgment of a registered architect who is responsible for the practice of architecture.

(d) The board shall determine the amount of the civil penalty which shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day the violation continues and shall not be greater than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) total per violation.

(e) Before issuing an order under this section, the board shall provide the person written notice and the opportunity to request, within 30 days of the notice by the board, a hearing on the record.

(f) Pursuant to the proceedings under this section, the board may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and disclosure of evidence and may request the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce a subpoena.

(g) A person aggrieved by the levy of a civil penalty under this section may file an appeal to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County exclusively for judicial review of the penalty within 30 days, notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act. Unless an appeal is taken or the penalty paid, the order of the board imposing the civil penalty shall become a judgment.

(h) If a person fails to pay a civil penalty within 30 days after entry of an order pursuant to subsection (c) or if the order is stayed pending an appeal, within 10 days after the court enters a final judgment in favor of the board of an order appealed pursuant to subsection (g), the board shall notify the Attorney General. The Attorney General may commence a civil action to recover the amount of the penalty plus attorney fees and costs.

(i) The cost to the board of the action shall be paid by the respondent if found in violation.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §7, Act 99-159, p. 216, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 834, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-37 Practice of Architecture by Certain Entities; Certificates of Authorization.

(a) It shall be lawful for a corporation, a professional corporation, a professional association, a partnership, or a limited liability company to practice architecture in this state, provided that:

(1) A minimum of two-thirds of those responsible for controlling the activities of the entity, including officers, partners, directors, members, and others depending on the legal structure of the entity, are voting stockholders who are architects or professional engineers, or both, registered under the laws of any United States jurisdiction and at least one is an architect registered in Alabama.

(2) Any agreement to perform such services shall be executed on behalf of the entity by a stockholding officer, partner, director, or member with authority to contractually bind the entity, who is an architect registered in the State of Alabama.

(3) A stockholding officer, partner, director, or member who is an architect registered in the State of Alabama shall exercise responsible control over the particular services contracted for by the entity and that architect's name and seal shall appear on all documents prepared by the entity in its practice of architecture.

(4) Other officers, partners, directors, or members shall not direct the professional judgment of the architect in responsible control over the practice of architecture by the entity.

(5) The entity shall furnish the board with such information about its organization and activities as the board shall require by rule and pay an annual administrative fee as the board may require, as established by rule of the board. The board shall maintain a public roster of such entities.

(b) Applications to practice as an entity shall be made on an annual basis. Disciplinary action for the entities shall be the same as for registered architects. Approved entities shall be responsible for the acts of their agents, employees, general partners, directors, or officers.

(c) Certificates of authorization shall expire on April 30 following their issuance or renewal and shall become invalid on May 1 unless renewed.

(d) Renewal may be effected at any time prior to or during the month of April by the payment of a fee established by the board by rule.

(e) A civil penalty in an amount established by the board by rule may be added to the renewal fee for failure to renew a certificate upon terms and conditions as the board may determine by rule. Failure to renew a certificate of authorization by April 30 shall result in a lapse of the certificate.

(f) A registrant whose certificate of authorization has lapsed may have the certificate reinstated, if he or she is in compliance with other relevant requirements, by filing a renewal form and paying a reinstatement fee established by the board by rule, in addition to the appropriate renewal fee and late penalty.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §8; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 834, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-38 Board for Registration of Architects - Creation; Composition.

To carry out the provisions of this chapter, there shall be a State Board for Registration of Architects, consisting of six members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three individuals selected as follows:

(1) All appointments as members of the board shall be architects registered and licensed pursuant to this chapter. The board shall be appointed from the following districts: One from the northern district; two from the north central district; two from the central district; and one from the southern district. The northern district shall be comprised of the Counties of Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston; the north central district shall be comprised of the Counties of Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Pickens, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Walker; the central district shall be comprised of the Counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Wilcox; and the southern district shall be comprised of the Counties of Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

(2) At least 30 days before the expiration of a board member's term, or for filling a vacancy otherwise occurring, a nominating committee of six members shall be selected by secret ballot from the district entitled to fill the vacancy. The nominating committee shall be elected at a meeting in the district called by the executive director of the board, who shall give notice in writing of the time and place of the called meeting to each architect in the district at least 30 days in advance of the date set for the meeting. Those architects present at the called meeting may vote on the membership of the nominating committee. After the selection of the nominating committee from the district where the vacancy occurs, there shall be a meeting of the committee with the board to select the names of three persons to be sent to the Governor by the executive director of the board. The board may conduct the nominating committee meeting virtually or provide a process of selection by mail-in ballot. The Governor shall appoint one of the named individuals to the board. 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, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(3) The term of office of the members of the board shall be four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(4) A member shall reside and have his or her principal office in the district from which appointed. A member's place on the board shall become vacant if the member removes either his or her residence or principal office from that district.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §9; Act 2003-139, p. 437, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 834, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-39 Board for Registration of Architects - Certificates; Powers and Duties; Seals; Bylaws; Rulemaking Authority.

- (a) Before beginning his or her term of office, each member of the board shall file with the Secretary of State the constitutional oath of office.
- (b) The board, or any committee thereof, shall be entitled to the services of the Attorney General in connection with the affairs of the board, and the board shall have the power to compel attendance of witnesses, to require production of documents, to administer oaths, and to take testimony and proof concerning all matters within its jurisdiction.
- (c) The board shall adopt and have an official seal which shall be affixed to all certificates of registration granted.
- (d) The board may make and adopt bylaws and rules consistent with this chapter and pursuant to the state administrative procedure law in order to comply with this chapter and to establish standards of professional conduct of architects.
- (e) The board shall adopt a program of continuing education in order to ensure that all registered architects remain informed of those technical and professional subjects that the board deems appropriate to professional architectural practice. The board, by rule, may describe the methods by which the requirements of the program may be satisfied. Failure to meet the requirements of continuing education shall result in nonrenewal of an architect's certificate of registration.
(*Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §10; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Act 2024-379, §1.*)

Section 34-2-40 Board for Registration of Architects - Meetings; Officers; Employees; Compensation; Quorum.

- (a) The board shall hold at least four regular meetings each year.
- (b) The board shall elect annually a chair and vice chair who must be members of the board. The board may employ an executive director, clerks, experts, attorneys, and others, as may be necessary in the carrying out this chapter.
- (c) The board, with the approval of the Governor, may fix the compensation of the executive director and other employees.
- (d) A quorum of the board shall consist of not less than a majority of the duly appointed board members.
(*Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §11; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, p. 830, §3; Acts 1991, No. 91-157, p. 201, §3; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 834, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.*)

Section 34-2-41 Fund of the Board for the Registration of Architects; Fiscal Year; Compensation of Members; Expenses; Use of Surplus Funds; Fees.

- (a) The executive director of the board shall receive and account for all monies derived from the operation of this chapter. Such monies shall be certified into the treasury in a fund to be known as the Fund of the Board for the Registration of Architects. The fund shall be expended only for the purposes of this chapter.
- (b) The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of October and end on the thirtieth day of September.
- (c) Each member of the board shall receive a per diem as recommended by the board consistent with applicable state laws for attending in person or virtual sessions of the board or its committee, and for the time spent in necessary travel to attend meetings of the board or its committee. In addition, each member of the board shall be reimbursed for traveling and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out official duties.

(d) Expenses certified by the board as properly and necessarily incurred in the discharge of its duties, including, but not limited to, authorized compensations, additional legal services, experts, clerks, office rent, and supplies, shall be paid out of the fund on the warrant of the Comptroller. The warrant shall be issued on requisitions signed by the executive director of the board. At no time in any fiscal year shall the total amount of warrants issued exceed the total amount of monies accumulated in this fund.

(e) The board may make donations from its surplus funds to any state educational institution that has a NAAB accredited school of architecture for assistance in promoting education and research programs in architecture.

(f) The board may provide educational information and programs to the public regarding the service of architecture from its surplus funds.

(g) The board may purchase promotional items for outreach and educational programs from its surplus funds.

(h) For the purpose of attracting architects to the State of Alabama, the board may waive registration fees from its surplus funds as approved by the board through board rule.

(i) The board, by rule, may set registration fees including, but not limited to, application, initial renewal, manual renewal, late renewal, and reinstatement, as well as fees for copies, certificate replacement, and mailing lists.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §12; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 834, §1; Act 2024-379, §1.)

Section 34-2-42 Annual Report.

REPEALED BY ACT 2024-379, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, p. 1198, §13; Acts 1982, No. 82-147, p. 175, §4; Act 2010-501, p. 796, §1; Act 2010-534, p. 894, §1.)

Section 34-2-43 Sunset Provision.

The board shall be subject to the Alabama Sunset Law, as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 41, as an enumerated agency as provided in Section 41-20-3.

(Act 2024-379, §3.)

Appendix II: Professional Services by Vendor

Legal Services	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
<i>Legal-Professional Services</i>				
Attorney General's Office	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 5,075.25	\$ 677.20	\$ 1,185.00
Total Legal Services	1,065.00	5,075.25	677.20	1,185.00
Data Processing Services				
<i>State Business Systems (SBS)</i>				
Department of Finance	833.50	833.00	672.00	700.00
<i>Finance and IT Planning Oversight</i>				
Office of Information Technology	194.48	197.34	208.78	264.96
<i>Data Processing Personnel Services</i>				
Office of Information Technology	6,425.20	5,925.61	7,428.15	6,667.27
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards			4,800.00	
<i>Comptroller Services</i>				
Department of Finance	2,569.44	2,700.00	2,756.00	2,925.00
Total Data Processing Services	10,022.62	9,655.95	15,864.93	10,557.23
Administrative Services				
<i>Advertising - Professional</i>				
Legislative Services Agency	420.00	3,100.00	1,950.00	1,120.00
<i>Mailing Services</i>				
Department of Finance	16.05	57.15	4.56	
<i>Information and Research Services</i>				
US Department of Homeland Security	50.00	25.00	100.00	25.00
<i>Personnel Department Services</i>				
State Personnel Department	1,634.00	1,671.00	1,328.00	1,350.00
<i>Interdepartmental Professional Services</i>				
Legislative Services Agency	100.00		200.00	300.00
<i>Sanitation Services</i>				
Gilmore Moving & Storage Inc.		150.11		170.00
<i>Moving Services</i>				
Amy Betterton		450.00		
Total Administrative Services	2,220.05	5,453.26	3,582.56	2,965.00
Total Professional Services	\$ 13,307.67	\$ 20,184.46	\$ 20,124.69	\$ 14,707.23

Appendix III: Test Divisions Pass Percentages by Educational Institutions

Auburn University					
Division Name	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024	CY 2025
Construction and Evaluation	74%	68%	64%	67%	72%
Practice Management	58%	56%	56%	52%	53%
Programming and Analysis	63%	64%	64%	72%	72%
Project Development & Documentation	45%	72%	52%	48%	61%
Project Management	63%	65%	78%	61%	66%
Project Planning & Design	45%	59%	55%	50%	52%

Tuskegee University					
Division Name	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024	CY 2025
Construction and Evaluation	31%	25%	20%	0%	17%
Practice Management	16%	13%	27%	8%	28%
Programming and Analysis	26%	8%	40%	33%	33%
Project Development & Documentation	29%	7%	30%	17%	14%
Project Management	29%	29%	12%	0%	31%
Project Planning & Design	20%	7%	30%	8%	0%

Appendix IV: Board Members



February 23, 2026

Ms. Makeylia Manuel

Compliance Examiner II

Examiners of Public Accounts

401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280

Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Ms. Manuel:

I am writing as requested to provide the Board member information for our Sunset Review audit. Please see below listing.

Emily Coe

City of Residence: Birmingham

Expiration of Term: 12/14/2026

Sted McCullough

City of Residence: Foley

Expiration of Term: 07/17/2028

Nolanda Hatcher

City of Residence: Birmingham

Expiration of Term: 07/17/2028

Daniel D. Bennett

City of Residence: Auburn

Expiration of Term: 09/05/2027

Michael L. Chapman

City of Residence: Huntsville

Expiration of Term: 07/17/2028

Jim H. Seay, Jr.

City of Residence: Montgomery

Expiration of Term: 01/02/2027

If any further information is needed for this requested item, please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Pilgreen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paula Pilgreen

Executive Director

Appendix V: Board's Response



August 21, 2026

Mrs. Dixie B. Thomas, *Director of Operational Audits*

Alabama Examiners of Public Accounts

401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280

Montgomery, AL 36104-4338

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Significant Issue in the Sunset Audit Report. As you know, the Board of Architects has a long history of, "No Findings" in the Sunset Audit. In addition, our recent Legal Compliance Audit resulted in, "No Findings". Therefore, this unusual finding grieves us terribly. As you see in the, "Matters of Concern" reported by the Board to the Examiners of Public Accounts, their concerns and the significant issue are essentially the same. Specifically, over the course of the audit period, we have experienced difficulty hiring and retaining employees, especially in the position of Investigator, resulting in delayed case closures.

Our agency had the bad luck of having the one Investigator position become available during the last four years. Although there have been standard personnel matters that are unfortunately common now for many employers both in government and private industry, a new and consistent hiring challenge has presented itself over the last few years that is outside of the Boards power to control. In our experience, there appears to be an unintended consequence of consolidation legislation. The general assumption of potential hires being that consolidation of licensing boards would either eliminate their position or alter the position so drastically it would no longer be appealing. In good faith, we could offer no promise this would not occur.

Current Status:

This finding has been resolved within the Board's power as specified below:

1. Investigator Position Filled: The Board has now filled the position of Investigator by hiring a retired State Employee. Although the Board planned to have a full-time Investigator, having a part-time employee brings an individual with other financial security should the Board be consolidated.
2. Status of Investigations: Today, all investigations are current (pending investigations now being worked stem from complaints received within the last 90 days).
3. Status of Open Cases with Completed Investigation:
 - 2 Cases going to Administrative Hearing;
 - 3 Consent Agreements to be voted on by the Board on October 1, 2026;
 - 1 Case on Hold pending litigation between the respondent and complainant.

ALABAMA BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS

445 DEXTER AVENUE, SUITE 4010 • Montgomery, AL 36104  334.242.4179  www.boa.alabama.gov

Background Information:

During the time of the vacancy for the Investigator position, the below administrative efforts were made:

1. Actively pursued recruiting for the position including restructuring (opened the position to either full time or part time and opened the position to either merit or exempt) in hopes of attracting talent.
2. Shopped around the possibility of entering into an interagency agreement for Investigative Services with several other agencies. These sister agencies declined due to prioritizing their own complaints and understandably so.
3. Where applicable, we notified the local jurisdiction having authority of the complaint. Their office was able to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare on construction projects in process or prevent construction from unlicensed activity.
4. In compliance with E.O. #766 - Constituent Reporting the issue of delayed cases due to the challenge of hiring an Investigator was reported.
5. Developed Disciplinary Guidelines to assist in taking action on cases quickly upon the investigative conclusion of a case. This included researching Disciplinary Guidelines adopted in Architecture Boards within our region (13 States) and a deep dive into the disciplinary history of the Board. This will ensure consistency and efficiency in cases moving forward.
6. In addition to the above, all administrative aspects of the case were acted on as follows:
 - A) Communication to the Complainant: Verified receipt of the complaint with the complainant and in most cases communicated with the complainant regarding the current vacancy in the investigator position causing a delay in the investigation;
 - B) Communication to the Respondent: Notified the respondent of the filing of the complaint. Further, the Board encouraged the respondent to submit a written response to the specific allegations.
 - C) Probable Cause Committee: Conducted a preliminary review of the case to ensure jurisdiction, reviewed the case (initial complaint, explanation from the respondent, administrative verification of facts of the case, etc.), and prepared questions for the Investigator to be.

Conclusion:

The Board has taken every step known to be available to address this matter. Ultimately, we respectfully seek guidance from the Committee in navigating the current atmosphere of consolidation of licensure boards, in regard to hiring and retaining talent for the Board, as it has a direct impact on all positions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paula Pilgreen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paula" and last name "Pilgreen" clearly distinguishable.

Paula Pilgreen

Executive Director