



Sunset Report
**Alabama Licensure
Board for Interpreters
and Transliterators**
Montgomery, Alabama

October 1, 2023 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

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 Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators 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 Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators 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
Braeden Mitchell

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PROFILE

Purpose/Authority

The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators (the “Board”) was created by Act Number 1998-675, Acts of Alabama, to license and regulate providers of services for the hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled. The Board’s main function is to license and regulate providers of services for the hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled. The Board’s current statutory authority is found in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 34-16-1 through 34-16-16.

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

Act Number 2025-163, Acts of Alabama, relating to the Alabama Sunset Law to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators until October 1, 2027, with certain modifications and to amend Section 34-16-4, *Code of Alabama 1975*, to require that a board member resides in and be appointed from each congressional district in this state and that any remaining members be appointed from the state at-large.

<u>Characteristics</u>	
Members and Selection	The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. • Four certified interpreters or transliterators members appointed from a list of three nominees for each of these positions submitted by Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ALRID). • Three deaf or hard of hearing members appointed from a list of three nominations for each position submitted by the Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD). • Two at-large members. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4
Term	Members serve four-year staggered terms. No Board member may serve more than two consecutive terms. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4

Qualifications	• Four members shall be certified as interpreters or transliterators at a professional level by a nationally recognized certification, one of whom shall work in an educational setting. • Three deaf or hard of hearing members who shall be knowledgeable in the field of professional interpreting. • Two members at-large who have an interest in and are experienced in dealing with issues that affect the deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreting communities. All members of the Board shall be citizens of the United States and residents of the State of Alabama. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4
Consumer Representation	Two consumer members are required by statute. Two consumer members are currently serving. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4
Racial Representation	No specific statutory requirement. Three minority members currently serving.
Geographical Representation	Beginning June 1, 2025, as the terms of the members serving on the Board expire, the membership of the Board shall be appointed so that one member resides in and is appointed from each congressional district in this state with the remaining members being appointed at large. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4
Other Representation	In appointing members to the Board, the nominating organizations and the Governor, to the extent possible, shall select those persons whose appointments 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 34-16-4
Compensation	Board members do not receive compensation. Board members receive the same travel expenses and per diem as state employees and incidental and clerical expenses necessarily incurred. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4
Attended Board Member Training	Three current Board members. One prior Board member. Two Smith Warren Management Services employees. Executive Director

<u>Operations</u>	
Administrator	During the Sunset review period, the Board had a contract with Smith Warren Management Services, Inc. for administrative, management, and facility services. Keith Warren, President of Smith Warren Management Services, Inc. served as the Board's Executive Director. The contract was for one year beginning January 16, 2026, at a rate of \$2,500.00 per month (\$30,000.00 per year). This contract was terminated on July 23, 2026. The Board entered into an interagency agreement with the Alabama Security Regulatory Board beginning June 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026 at a rate of \$2,500 per month, not to exceed \$10,000 for FY2026. This agreement stipulates that the Alabama Security Regulatory Board will provide office space, administrative employee services, and basic utilities, including telephone and internet charges to the Board. This agreement became effective upon the date of the Governor's signature on July 24, 2026.
Location	603 Interstate Park Drive Montgomery, AL 36109 Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.
Real Property Ownership	The Board does not own any real property.
Employees	None. The Board has an interagency agreement with the Alabama Security Regulatory Board for administrative services.
Legal Counsel	Andy Crowder, Assistant Attorney General, an employee of the Alabama Attorney General's Office, provides legal services for the Board.
Subpoena Power	The Board does not have subpoena power except as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act, <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 41-22-12 for hearings and contested cases.
Internet Presence	www.albit.alabama.gov The Board's website contains links to request a verification letter or a replacement license/permit card; links to the Board's rules, regulations, and statutes; information related to applications and renewals; a licensee roster search; minutes from the Board's meetings; a listing of all current Board members, and an announcements section. The website also has a complaint section with links to the complaint procedures, a video with instructions on how to file a complaint, and a fillable complaint form.

<u>Financial</u>											
Source of Funds	Licensure fees. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9										
State Treasury	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 0959. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9										
Required Distributions	There are no required distributions.										
Unused Funds	Any funds remaining in the State Treasury to the credit of the Board at the end of each year in excess of \$250,000 shall be available to provide for the education and training of interpreters and transliterators in post-secondary programs. At all times, the Board may retain a sum not in excess of \$250,000 to meet any emergency which may affect the efficient operation of the Board. The Board's balances at year-end of each year during the Sunset review period did not exceed \$250,000. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9										
<u>Licensure</u>											
Licensees	As of February 4, 2026: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Professional Licenses</td><td>211</td></tr> <tr> <td>Professional Permits</td><td>121</td></tr> <tr> <td>Provisional Permits (Non-Renewable)</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Educational Permits (Limited Permit)</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>344</td></tr> </table> <i>Source:</i> Executive Director	Professional Licenses	211	Professional Permits	121	Provisional Permits (Non-Renewable)	9	Educational Permits (Limited Permit)	3	Total	344
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Professional Permits	121										
Provisional Permits (Non-Renewable)	9										
Educational Permits (Limited Permit)	3										
Total	344										

Licensure Qualifications	<u>Licensure</u> Applicants for Licensure must submit an application and must: • Submit documentation of high school or GED. • Have a valid national certification approved by the National Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf (RID); the National Association of the Deaf (NAD); and/or the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI); and/or the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) or other certification approved by the Board. • Provide proof of citizenship and submit citizenship form. • Submit an affidavit documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam approved by the Board. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 <i>Administrative Rules</i> 488-X-1-.04 and 488-X-41-.07 <u>Renewable Permit</u> Applicants seeking a renewable permit must submit all of the following: • Documentation of GED, high school diploma or certified transcripts. • College diploma or college certified transcripts. • Documentation the applicant has passed either a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) approved ethics or written knowledge exam, or an ethics or written knowledge exam approved by the Board. • Documentation of having passed one of the following performance assessment tests: ◆ Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) levels 3.0 to 3.9. ◆ Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) advanced or levels 3, 4. ◆ Any other performance assessment or test approved by the Board. • Be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen, legally present. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-6 <i>Administrative Rule</i> 488-X-1-.11 <u>Non-Renewable Permits</u> Applicants seeking a renewable permit submit an application and must: • Submit documentation of high school diploma or GED, or certified transcripts; or College diploma or college certified transcripts. • Submit recommendation forms from 3 licensed interpreters attesting to the skill level of the applicant. • Provide proof of citizenship and submit citizenship form. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-6 <i>Administrative Rule</i> 488-X-1-.13
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Examinations	Applicants for licensure must have documentation of either a current Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certified membership card, an Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) level 4.0 – 5.0 exam and EIPA written exam, and college degrees, or a Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) master or level V. Applicants for a permit must provide documentation of passing either the EIPA levels 3.0 – 3.9, the BEI advance levels 3, 4, or any other performance assessment or test approved by the Board. The Board does not offer or administer any exams. <i>Administrative Rule</i> 488-X-1-.07 and 488-X-1-.11
Reciprocity	The Board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any state, agency, or other organization that licenses, certifies, or registers professional interpreters or transliterators, or both, if the Board finds that the state, agency, or organization has substantially the same requirements or more stringent requirements. Currently, the Board has no reciprocal licensure agreements with any other state. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-8 <i>Source</i>: Executive Director
Renewals	Licenses and permits are renewed annually on or before March 15. Failure to renew a license on or before March 15 of any year shall result in a lapse of the license. A lapsed license that is not renewed within 45 days after March 15 of the year of the lapse, shall expire. Failure to renew a permit on or before March 15 of any year shall result in a lapse of the permit. A lapsed license or permit may be reinstated by the Board if the permittee is in compliance with all other requirements, applies for renewal, pays the renewal, late, and reinstatement fees. 85% of renewals were completed online in fiscal year 2025. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 and 34-16-6 <i>Source</i>: Staff

Licensee Demographics	As of February 26, 2026: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Male:</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr> <td>Caucasian</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr> <td>African American</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Native American</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Female:</td><td>284</td></tr> <tr> <td>Caucasian</td><td>237</td></tr> <tr> <td>African American</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr> <td>American Indian</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic/Latino</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>15</td></tr> </table> Source: Staff	Male:	35	Caucasian	26	African American	4	Native American	1	Other	4	Female:	284	Caucasian	237	African American	25	American Indian	1	Hispanic/Latino	6	Other	15
Male:	35																						
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Continuing Education	The Board requires each Licensed or Permitted Interpreter or Transliterator to earn 2 Continuing Education Units (CEU) per 12-month cycle or an aggregate of 8 CEUs in 4 years for those Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certified interpreters enrolled in the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) and Associate Continuing Education Training (ACET). Duplication of courses/workshops/independent study will not be allowed. CEUs must consist of at least 1.5 out of 2 CEUs in Professional Studies. No more than 1.5 CEUs may be earned through independent study per cycle with respect to professional studies approved by RID. Code of Alabama 1975, Sections 34-16-4, 34-16-5, and 34-16-6 Administrative Rule 488-X-1-.01																						

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are 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: Six of the twenty-three licensees (26%) who responded to our survey believe some of the laws, rules, or policies place an unnecessary restriction on the practice of their profession.

PRIOR MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Prior Matter of Concern 2024-003: Eight of the eighteen licensees (44%) who responded to our survey stated the most significant issue facing their profession is the lack of interpreters in the state.

Current Status: Unresolved. Ten of the twenty-three licensees (43%) who responded to our survey believe the most significant issue facing their profession is the lack of interpreters.

Prior Matter of Concern 2024-004: Six of the eighteen licensees (33%) who responded to our survey do not think they are adequately informed by the Board about changes to and interpretations of the Board's positions, policies, rules or laws.

Current Status: Unresolved. Seven of the twenty-three licensees (30%) who responded to our survey do not think they are adequately informed by the Board about changes to and interpretations of the Board's positions, policies, rules, or laws.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Licensee Questionnaire

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting participation in our survey. Twenty-three 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 – “Consistency of what it means to be an interpreter. (There have been examples of hiring interpreters as teachers aids in an attempt to circumvent licensure.)”

Respondent #2 – “Nothing comes to mind.”

Respondent #3 – “Cost of licensure renewal; professional licensure maintenance. Oversight of non-qualified interpreters”

Respondent #4 – “Lack of awareness of access. The more access is a standard, the more we will see the profession grow in our state as it has in others.”

Respondent #5 – “Pay”

Respondent #6 – Cost just to be one

Respondent #7 – “wasteful fees, with no value to us whatsoever”

Respondent #8 – “Not having enough qualified interpreters.”

Respondent #9 – “Not enough qualified interpreters.”

Respondent #10 – “Lack of licensed interpreters, and interpreters in general”

Respondent #11 – “Diversity and a variety in specialize training.”

Respondent #12 – “Making sure that qualified interpreters are working in Alabama”

Respondent #13 – “Shortage of interpreters”

Respondent #14 – “Having to get the CASLI performance exam passed before being able to have an Alabama license. I only have the 1 year permit and then I can't interpret anymore until I have the exam passed.”

Respondent #15 – “Having to do continual education for this licensure as well as National”

Respondent #16 – “The lack of a national bodies to certify. A monopoly exists for american sign language interpreters”

Respondent #17 – “Not enough qualified certified interpreters, not enough pay for the responsibility we hold in our hands. It would be nice to have an actual card that we can show to hearing consumers that proves we are capable.”

Respondent #18 – “Shortage of interpreters.”

Respondent #19 – “Lack of certified Interpreters; complacency and unwillingness to get certified.”

Respondent #20 – “Lack of knowledge of professionals/families whom we interact with”

Respondent #21 – “N/A”

Respondent #22 – “Lack of knowledge by providers about contacting/contracting with qualified interpreters. Also the lack of qualified interpreters in Alabama.

Respondent #23 – “Not enough licensed educational interpreters.”

2. Do you think regulation of your profession by the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators is necessary to protect the public welfare?

Yes	19	83%
No	4	17%

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

Yes	6	26%
No	14	61%
Unknown	3	13%

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

Yes	10	44%
No	7	30%
Unknown	6	26%

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

Yes	21	91%
No	2	9%

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

Yes	14	61%
No	1	4%
Unknown	8	35%

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

Yes	23	100%
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8. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 –“ No.”

Respondent #2 – “Renewing each year requires answering a handful of questions, including if you have ever received outpatient care for substance abuse or mental health. People should be able to pursue getting help without thinking it will negatively impact their ability to get licensure and support themselves. I am not sure what the consequences are for clicking yes to that question, but it seems like it is overstepping someone's medical right to privacy,”

Respondent #3 – “Given the shortage of interpreters that has been an issue for many years, the high cost of licensure maintenance compared to other professions is exorbitant. It is almost \$500 a year for a licensed interpreter to maintain certification with ALBIT given the requirement to maintain certification with RID (national).”

Respondent #4 – “We absolutely need licensure to remain so that accuracy and quality care is happening. Access to healthcare , education and life is a human right. Being qualified to handle this responsibility is not a big ask. Thank you for continuing to uphold standards and accuracy in this service of communication.”

Respondent #5 – “I work out of state and should have the opportunity to pay for the license only the years I am working in Alabama. The fee for not maintaining it year after year is becoming cost prohibitive.”

Respondent #6 – “Make it easy, cost too high.”

Respondent #7 – “yearly, we are forced to pay more money for a piece of paper that confirms certification; but provides no support, no ceu, nothing at all except a piece of paper membership card-- that we already qualify for by passing RID Certification!

State licensening feels redundant. Cost increases, yet our product does not change. I personally feel it is a burden.”

Respondent #8 – “No”

Respondent #9 – “No.”

Respondent #10 – “none”

Respondent #11 – “No”

Respondent #12 – “No”

Respondent #13 – “None”

Respondent #14 – “Can the permit be extended beyond the 1 year? I have 8 years of interpreting experience and working on taking the exam but moved to alabama and now can only interpret her for 1 year. Maybe providing more time or options to be Able to continue working in alabama.”

Respondent #15 – “No”

Respondent #16 – “no”

Respondent #17 – “Don't send warnings about dues being required without opening the site to pay.”

Respondent #18 – “No”

Respondent #19 – “There was an investigation done in regards to a complaint directed at me, but I have yet to hear anything more in 5 months.”

Respondent #20 – “I think it's not right that everyone's license expires in March and is required to obtain the necessary Ceu/pay the yearly fee again even if they have not held their license for a year. Everyones license should expire one year to the date after they recieve it.”

Respondent #21 – “State Licensing is an necessary (and expensive) overlap in a profession where we are already required to have a college degree and obtain a National Certification through RID (Registry of Interpreters). Through our certification, we are thoroughly tested, complete many annual hours of continuing education, and pay annual dues.”

Respondent #22 – “The state of Alabama should continue to require licensing for ASL/English interpreters. These licenses should be overseen by people in the field.”

Respondent #23 – “The Board has been effective in keeping the interpreting profession on track.”

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Applicable Statutes

Section 34-16-1 Short Title; Construction.

(a) This chapter shall be known as the “Alabama Licensure for Interpreters and Transliterators Act.”

(b) This chapter shall be liberally construed and implemented to promote the purposes and policies set forth herein.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §1.)

Section 34-16-2 Legislative Intent.

The Legislature declares that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to regulate the practice of interpreting and transliterating on behalf of consumers who are hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled by licensing and permitting the providers of interpreting and transliterating services, and establishing and monitoring interpreting and transliterating standards in the State of Alabama.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §2.)

Section 34-16-3 Definitions.

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

(1) BOARD. The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators, created pursuant to Section 34-16-4.

(2) CODE OF ETHICS. The tenets established by the Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf which set guidelines governing professional conduct for interpreters and transliterators, and any other code of ethics approved by the board.

(3) CONSUMER. A hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled person or any other person or an agency that requires the services of an interpreter or transliterator to effectively communicate and comprehend signed or spoken discourse.

(4) CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM or CEP. A program approved by the board to improve the skill level of licensees and permit holders.

(5) FUND. The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators Fund, created pursuant to Section 34-16-9.

(6) INTERMEDIARY INTERPRETER. A person who is credentialed as an interpreter and who serves in an intermediary capacity between another deaf person and another licensed or permitted interpreter or between two or more deaf persons.

(7) INTERPRETER. A person who is credentialed as a professional interpreter and who engages in the practice of interpreting among consumers. Fluency in all languages interpreted is required.

(8) INTERPRETING or TRANSLITERATING. The process of providing accessible communication between and among consumers who do not share a common means of communication. For the purposes of this chapter, interpreting means those processes known as interpretation and transliteration and includes communication modalities, including, but not limited to, visual, gestural, and tactile channels.

(9) NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION. A certification awarded to individuals who successfully complete an evaluation of interpreting skills at a professional level. The term includes a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification, or an equivalent such as the National Association for the Deaf/Alabama Association for the Deaf Interpreter Assessment Program Level 4 or Level 5, or Cued Speech Certification at a national level.

(10) ORGANIZATIONS. The Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD), a state chapter of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD); Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ALRID), an affiliate state chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., (RID).

(11) SIGN LANGUAGE. Includes all of the following communication systems:

- a. American Sign Language (ASL) Based. The language of the deaf community that is linguistically independent from English. The term refers to the visual gestural language used in the United States and parts of Canada and includes all regional variations.
- b. English Based Sign Systems. Includes, but is not limited to, all visual representations of the English language such as manually coded English, Pidgin Sign English, and Oral Interpreting.
- c. Sign Language. A generic term used to describe a continuum of visual-manual language and communication systems.
- d. Cued Speech. A system of handshapes which represents groups of consonant sounds, combined with hand placements which represent groups of vowel sounds, used with natural speech to represent a visual model of spoken language.

(12) TRANSLITERATOR. A person who is credentialed as a professional transliterator and who engages in the practice of transliteration between consumers utilizing two different modes of the same language. Fluency in both modes of language is required.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §3.)

Section 34-16-4 Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators - Creation; Composition; Meetings; Duties; Compensation.

(a) There is created the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators.

(b) The board shall consist of nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(1) Four members certified as interpreters or transliterators at a professional level by a nationally recognized certification, one of whom shall work in an educational setting. A list of three nominations for each of these positions shall be submitted to the Governor by ALRID.

(2) Three deaf or hard of hearing members who are knowledgeable in the field of professional interpreting. A list of three nominations for each of these positions shall be submitted to the Governor by AAD.

(3) Two members at-large who have an interest in and are experienced in dealing with issues that affect the deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreting communities.

(c) All members of the board shall be citizens of the United States and residents of the State of Alabama. In appointing members to the board, the nominating organizations and the Governor, to the extent possible, shall select those individuals whose appointments ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state. Commencing on June 1, 2025, as the terms of the members serving on the board expire, the membership of the board shall be appointed so that one member resides in and is appointed from each congressional district in this state with the remaining members being appointed from the state at-large.

(d) A list of three nominees for each position, except for the at-large positions, shall be submitted to the Governor by the designated organizations by October 1, 1998. The initial terms shall begin January 1, 1999.

(e) The initial members of the board shall serve the following terms as designated by the Governor:

(1) Four of the initial members shall serve for two years.

(2) Three of the initial members shall serve for three years.

(3) Two of the initial members shall serve for four years.

(f) Subsequent terms of office shall be four years. No board member may serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from the remaining names on the list of nominees for that position. Each board member shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

(g) At its first meeting each year, the board shall elect a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary. No member shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive years in the same office.

(h) After the initial appointments to the board are made, the board shall meet by January 31 of the following year for the purpose of organizing and transacting business as may properly come before the board. Subsequently, the board shall meet not less than twice annually, and as frequently as it deems necessary, at such time and places as it designates. A quorum necessary to transact business shall consist of five of the members of the board.

(i) The board shall have all of the following duties:

(1) Act on matters concerning licensure and permitting, and the process of granting, suspending, reinstating, and revoking a license or permit.

(2) Set a fee schedule for granting licenses and permits, for renewing licenses and permits, for reinstating a lapsed license or permit, and for assessing penalties for late renewal. The fees shall be sufficient to cover the cost of the continued operation and administration of the board.

(3) Develop a mechanism for processing applications for licenses, permits, and renewals.

(4) Establish a procedure to enable the investigation of complaints concerning the violation of ethical practices for licensed or permitted interpreters.

(5) Maintain a current register of licensed interpreters and a current register of permitted interpreters. These registers shall be matters of public record.

(6) Maintain a complete record of all board proceedings.

(7) Submit an annual report detailing the proceedings of the board to the Governor and file a copy with the Secretary of State.

(8) Adopt continuing education requirements no later than October 1 of the year in which the initial board is appointed. These requirements shall be implemented by January 1 of the year following for renewal of a license or permit.

(j) Board members shall receive the same travel expenses and per diem as state employees pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 36 and incidental and clerical expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out this chapter. The compensation and expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the board. Reimbursement shall not be made if available funds are insufficient for this purpose.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §4; Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2003-66, §3; Act 2025-163, §3.)

Section 34-16-5 License Required; Application; Issuance; Renewal.

(a) After March 15, 1998, any person who provides interpreting or transliterating services for remuneration shall be required annually to be licensed or permitted by the board unless that person is exempt from licensure or permitting pursuant to Section 34-16-7.

(b) The initial license shall be issued upon submission of an application, an affidavit documenting current validation of a nationally recognized certification as approved by the board, and payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee by March 15. Licenses shall be renewed annually, upon submission of an application and an affidavit documenting current nationally recognized certification at a professional level as approved by the board, payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee, and participation in a continuing education program approved by the board.

(c) All applicants for licensure who are initially certified after January 1, 1995, shall submit an affidavit documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam approved by the board.

(d) Failure to renew a license on or before March 15 of any year, shall result in a lapse of the license. A lapsed license that is not renewed within 45 days after March 15 of the year of the lapse, shall expire. The holder of the lapsed license may be reinstated by the board if the licensee is in compliance with all other relevant requirements of the board, applies to the board for renewal pursuant to this section, and pays the appropriate renewal, late penalty, and reinstatement fees prescribed by the board. (*Act 98-675, p. 1480, §5, Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2003-66, p. 104, §3.*)

Section 34-16-6 Permit to Practice; Renewal; Ethics Examination; Lapse of Permit.

(a) Any person who practices as an interpreter or transliterator for remuneration on August 1, 1998, but who does not otherwise meet the requirements for licensure, may obtain a renewable permit to practice interpretation or transliteration. An initial permit shall be issued upon submission of the application, documentation of a high school diploma or GED, current employment as an interpreter, and payment of the nonrefundable annual fee. Any person who does not obtain an initial permit by March 15, 1999, may obtain a nonrenewable provisional permit to practice interpretation or transliteration upon the submission of the application, documentation of a high school diploma or GED, payment of the nonrefundable fee, and submission of three letters of recommendation from licensed interpreters that verify the skill level of the applicant.

(b) In subsequent years, permit holders and nonrenewable permit holders may apply for a renewable annual permit that shall require the submission of an affidavit and supporting materials documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam as approved by the board and an interpreting performance assessment approved by the board, the payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee, and the participation in a continuing education program approved by the board. Each applicant shall also be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government. The affidavit shall be submitted no later than March 15 annually.

(c) Subsequent renewal of a permit by a cued speech transliterator shall require submission of an affidavit and supporting materials documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam as approved by the board and payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee and participation in a continuing education program approved by the board. Each applicant shall also be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government. The affidavit shall be submitted no later than March 15 annually.

(d) Failure to renew a permit on or before March 15 of any year, shall result in a lapse of the permit. The holder of the lapsed permit may be reinstated by the board if the permittee is in compliance with all other relevant requirements of the board, applies to the board for renewal pursuant to this section, and pays the appropriate renewal, late penalty, and reinstatement fees prescribed by the board.

(*Act 98-675, p. 1480, §6; Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2009-14, p. 27, §3.*)

Section 34-16-7 Exemptions.

The following persons shall be exempt from licensure or permitting pursuant to this chapter:

- (1) Any student who is enrolled in a formal American sign language program, a formal interpreter training program, or a formal interpreter or transliterator internship program. The student shall be allowed to interpret or transliterate as part of his or her training for a maximum of 16 weeks in an educational setting or 120 hours in an agency or business.
- (2) Any person who interprets or transliterates solely in a church, synagogue, temple, or other religious setting.
- (3) Any person residing outside of the State of Alabama may provide interpreting and transliterating services for up to 14 working days per calendar year without a license.
- (4) Any person desiring to interpret for remuneration where circumstances do not allow for fulfillment of the stated requirements for licensure or permitting may petition the board for exemption status.
- (5) Those public education personnel and State Department of Rehabilitation personnel, who are not hired as interpreters and transliterators and who are not as a part of their job description responsible for providing interpreting or transliteration services, in circumstances that may necessitate their function as interpreters and transliterators in emergency or incidental situations.
- (6) All other public education personnel hired prior to March 15, 2000, who provide interpreting and transliterating services to students. These personnel shall apply for and receive a permit specifying that their permits are restricted to interpreting and transliteration services provided in the public education setting only. The application for this permit shall be submitted to the board prior to October 1, 2000. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder to annually renew the permit by earning continuing education units in compliance with the requirements of the interpreters and transliterators licensure law. If personnel, who have been grandfathered in pursuant to this subdivision, for any reason should allow their permits to lapse or expire, those personnel shall lose all privileges of this exemption and shall adhere to all requirements of the interpreters and transliterators licensure law to renew their permits.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §7; Act 2000-755, p. 1711, §1.)

Section 34-16-8 Reciprocity Agreements Authorized.

- (a) The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any state, agency, or other organization that licenses, certifies, or registers professional interpreters or transliterators, or both, if the board finds that the state, agency, or organization has substantially the same requirements or more stringent requirements.
- (b) The reciprocity agreement shall provide that the board shall license anyone who is currently licensed, certified, or registered in that state or by that agency or other organization if that state, agency, or other organization agrees to license, certify, or register any practitioners who are currently licensed pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) The board shall set by regulation the fees appropriate in processing reciprocity.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §8.)

Section 34-16-9 Annual Fee; Fund.

- (a) The annual fee may be increased or decreased by the board, provided, the board shall not set an annual fee at an amount which would not provide sufficient revenues to pay all the costs and expenses incurred by the board in enforcing this chapter.
- (b) The annual fee shall cover a license or permit for the 12-month period beginning March 15 of each year.
- (c) There is created in the State Treasury the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators Fund. All fees collected by the board shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the fund. Monies in the fund shall be subject to withdrawal only upon warrant of the state Comptroller to be issued upon certification of the secretary or treasurer of the board.
- (d) Any funds remaining in the State Treasury to the credit of the board at the end of each year in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be available to provide for the education and training of interpreters and translators in postsecondary programs. At all times the board may retain a sum not in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to meet any emergency which may affect the efficient operation of the board. No funds shall be withdrawn or expended except as budgeted and allocated pursuant to Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and Sections 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills. There shall be appropriated from the fund to the board for the fiscal years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 an amount deemed necessary by the board to fund the costs of its operations.
(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §9.)

Section 34-16-10 Application for License or Permit; Issuance; Rejection.

- (a) Any person may apply for a license or a permit pursuant to this chapter by filing a written application on a form prescribed by the board not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of the board. The application shall be accompanied by the payment of the annual nonrefundable license fee or permit fee. The credentials of the applicant shall be reviewed according to the rules of the board.
- (b) If the board finds the credentials in order, a license or permit shall be issued to the applicant.
- (c) If the board rejects the credentials, the applicant will be notified in writing informing him or her of the reasons for rejection.
(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §10.)

Section 34-16-11 Charges of Fraud, Deceit, Etc., Against Holder of License or Permit; Hearing; Appeal; Reapplication.

(a) Any person may bring charges of fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetence, or misconduct against a licensee or permit holder. All charges shall be made in writing or by video tape and sworn to by the person making the charges. All charges shall be submitted to the chair of the board within 90 days of the alleged occurrence. After a review of the charges, the board shall conduct a hearing at which it may dismiss the charges, or may impose a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or may suspend or revoke the license or permit of the person charged.

(b) The licensee or permit holder may appeal a decision of the board imposing an administrative fine or revoking or suspending a license or permit by submitting a request to the board for reconsideration within 90 days following the decision of the board. If no resolution is achieved, further appeals shall be submitted to the circuit court in the jurisdiction of the residence of the licensee or permit holder. Any licensee or permit holder whose application for renewal of licensure or permitting was denied or whose license or permit was revoked may reapply after 12 months. The board may then reissue a license or permit or rescind any disciplinary action if a majority of the members, which shall be no less than four members, vote in favor of the action.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §11.)

Section 34-16-12 Rules and Regulations.

The board may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this chapter and accomplish its objectives. The rules and regulations shall be published in the Standards of Professional Practice and made available to all licensees and permit holders. The rulemaking powers of the board are subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, Sections 41-22-1 to 41-22-27, inclusive.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §12.)

Section 34-16-13 Violations; Penalties.

After January 1, 1999, any person who undertakes or attempts to undertake the practice of interpreting or transliterating for remuneration among consumers without first having procured a valid license or permit, or who knowingly presents or files false information with the board for the purpose of obtaining a license or permit, or who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. A person who is not licensed or permitted may not bring or maintain an action to enforce any contract for interpreting or transliterating services which he or she entered into in violation of this chapter. Whenever it appears to the board that any interpreter or transliterator has violated or is about to violate this chapter, the board may, in its own name, petition the circuit court of the county where the violation occurred or is about to occur to issue a temporary restraining order enjoining the violation.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §13.)

Section 34-16-14 Actions by Board to Recover Damages; Liability of Board Members.

(a) The board may sue and be sued in its own name to recover actual or compensatory damages, including interest and court costs, sustained within the State of Alabama as the result of conduct of any licensee or permit holder who violates this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.

(b) All members of the board shall be immune from civil liability while acting within the scope of their duties as board members.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §14.)

Section 34-16-15 Notification of Conviction or Pending Civil Action; Breach of Professional Ethics, Etc.

(a) A licensee or permit holder shall notify the board within 10 days of any felony conviction, and within 10 days of a civil action being brought against the licensee or permit holder, if the civil action arose from an interpreting or transliterating transaction or involves the goodwill of a licensee or permit holder or an existing interpreting or transliterating business or agency. The notification shall be in writing, sent by certified mail, and include a copy of the judgement.

(b) Allegations of breach of professional ethics or conduct incompatible with the Standards of Professional Practice as determined by the board may be brought against a licensee or permit holder by any individual, business, or agency.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §15.)

Section 34-16-16 Sunset Provision.

The board shall be an enumerated board pursuant to Sections 41-20-1 to 41-20-16, inclusive, and shall be reviewed at the same time as the State Board of Medical Examiners.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §16.)



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA LICENSURE BOARD FOR INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLITERATORS

P. O. Box 240187 (36124-0187)

603 Interstate Park Drive

Montgomery, AL 36109

Telephone (334) 277-8881

Fax (334) 277-0188

Email: ALBIT.gov@gmail.com

www.ALBIT.alabama.gov

July 23, 2026

Braeden Mitchell
Examiners of Public Accounts
Post Office Box 302251
Montgomery, AL 36130-2251

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Listed below are the current Board members as well as those serving during the audit period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS			
NAME	TERM EXPIRATION	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	CURRENT POSITION
Wendy Darling Montgomery, Alabama Representing ALRIB Caucasian Female	12/31/25	1/1/2022	Chair
Melvin Walker Chelsea, Alabama Representing At Large Caucasian Male	12/31/2025	1/1/22	Vice Chair
Judith Gilliam Talladega, Alabama Representing AAD Caucasian Female	12/31/28	2/28/24	Member
LaShawn Washington Pelham, Alabama Representing At Large Black Female	12/31/25	8/28/20	Member
Joshua Brewer Pike Road, Alabama Representing ALRID Caucasian Male	12/31/26	2/28/24	Secretary
Angie J. Carmody-Cox Huntsville, Alabama Representing ALRID Caucasian Female	12/31/24	1/1/21	Member
Kathleen Ryan McDonald Huntsville, Alabama Representing AAD Caucasian Female	12/31/26	2/28/24	Member
Brian Moss Tuscaloosa, Alabama Representing AAD Black Male	12/31/24	2/28/24	Member
Claudia Mansilla McCalla, Alabama Representing ALRID/Education Hispanic Female	12/31/2028	2/6/25	Member

Appendix III: Board's Response



ALABAMA LICENSURE BOARD
FOR
INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

603 Interstate Park Drive (36109)

Post Office Box 302633

Montgomery, AL 36130-2633

Telephone (334) 277-8881

albit@alstateboard.com

www.albit.alabama.gov

August 21, 2026

Dixie B. Thomas
Examiners of Public Accounts
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-43389

Dear Mrs. Thomas,

The Board is pleased that the Sunset Audit identified no new or unresolved issues. We recognize the concern noted in licensee survey comments regarding the shortage of interpreters, which is both a statewide and nationwide issue. Several Board members are prepared to discuss this matter with the Sunset Committee in September.

The Board and I look forward to the Sunset Committee meeting in September. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director