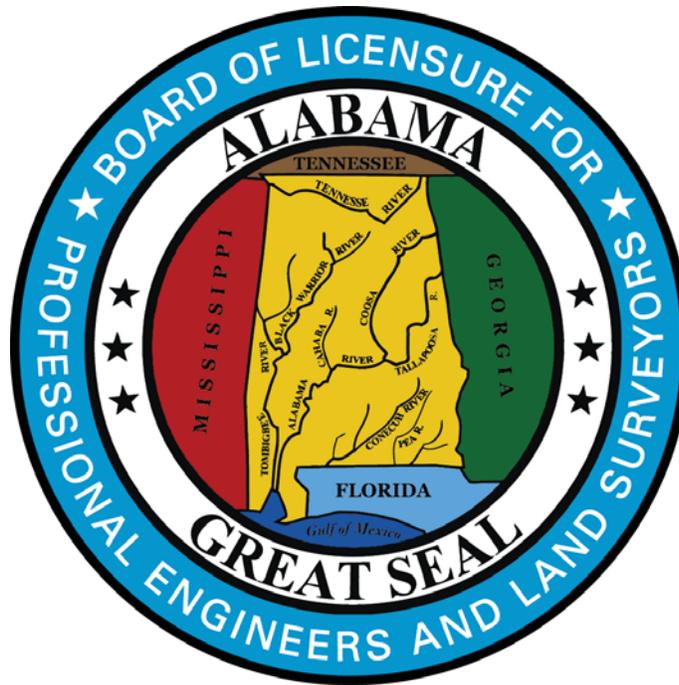


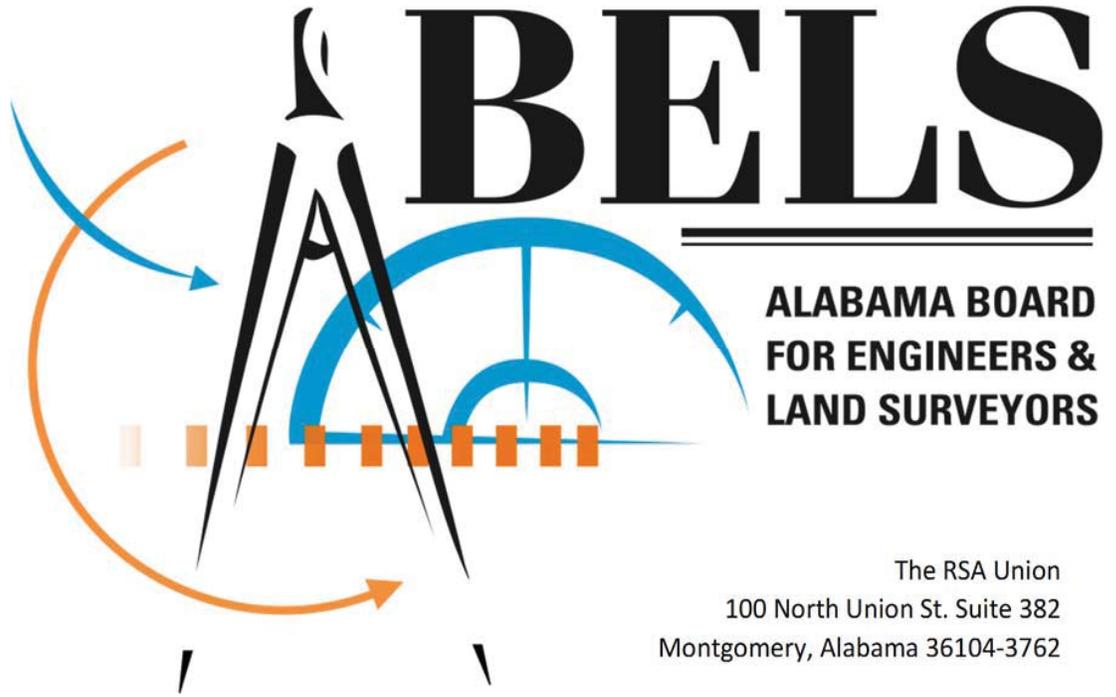
2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

Oct. 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2015

Marc Barter / PE
Frazier Christy / PLS & PE
Elisabeth Hyde / PE
Charles Willis / PE
Richard Grace / PE & PLS
Nathan Johnson / PLS & PE
Randall Whorton / PE
Earl Foust / PE
Regina Dinger / *Executive Director*



To The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of the State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Governor Bentley:

We hand you herewith the 2015 Annual Report of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as provided under Title 34, Chapter 11 *Code of Alabama* 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Barter, Chair, 2014-2015
Alabama State Board of Licensure
For Professional Engineers and
Land Surveyors

our BOARD



Earl Foust, PE *
Chair
Birmingham



Marc Barter, PE *
Vice Chair
Mobile



Frazier Christy PLS/PE *
Secretary
Birmingham



Charles Willis, PE
Brookwood



Richard Grace PE/PLS
Decatur



Elisabeth Hyde PE *
Birmingham



Nathan Johnson PLS/PE
Huntsville

BELS consists of five professional engineers and two land surveyors. The five professional engineers are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by a committee, and the two land surveyors are appointed by the Governor from a list of three persons nominated for each appointment by the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

Each member of BELS must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alabama. They must be a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional land surveyor, hold a current license, be engaged in the practice of engineering or land surveying, respectively, for at least 12 years, and have been in responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying, respectively, work for at least five years.

* - Moved into acting Leadership roles (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively) when Earl Foust rotated off BELS midyear.



our MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) was established by a legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through swift and effective discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

WHO WE ARE

BELS reviews applications, offers the national licensing examinations, develops and administers the state specific licensing examination, licenses qualified applicants, and regulates the professional practice of licensees throughout the State. They also have the power to discipline those individuals who are not licensed in the State but who are performing engineering or land surveying in the State.

Board meetings are held at the BELS office in Montgomery, and are open to the public. We ask that persons wishing to bring matters for BELS's consideration submit written notification or request to be placed on the agenda 20 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Sunset Legislation was passed authorizing the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to continue through 2019.
- BELS approved conversion from annual to biennial renewals for its licensees beginning with the October 2015 renewal cycle. All individuals will use the on-line renewal system with BELS paying the transaction fee. All licenses will be converted at the same time to the two-year cycle. Licensees will need 15 hours of continuing education in order to renew for the 2016-2017 cycle. Thereafter, licensees will need 30 hours of continuing education with a maximum of 15 hours being carried over. Retirees and Interns will renew at no cost.
- A task force co-chaired by Messrs. Christy and Johnson and composed of licensees and other stakeholders was created to look at the Future of Land Surveying. The initial meetings identified numerous areas that the task force believed needed to be further investigated.



Randall Whorton PE
Anniston

• Randall Whorton, a licensed professional engineer for the past 35 years, was appointed to BELS and replaced sitting chairman Earl Foust. His term of service is set to expire April 2020. Whorton is currently president and owner of Whorton Engineering, Inc., an Anniston-based business established in 1992. Aside from being involved in roughly 150 commercial projects exceeding an annual total of \$140 million, his firm also performs Energy Audits and Commissioning Services. Whorton has served as a Governor's appointment to the Alabama Energy and Residential Code Board for nine years. He holds degrees from Auburn University and the University of Tennessee.

- A BELS sub-committee conducted a review of the existing licensure Law and developed proposed changes. Those changes were reviewed by the entirety of BELS and were approved for distribution to all stakeholders for comments. Town hall meetings were held throughout the state to explain the changes and to seek feedback. Two webinars were hosted by Mr. Barter, Acting BELS Chair, to provide information to those who were unable to attend the town hall meetings.
- BELS hosted its first webinars in FY 2015 as a way to provide a Professional Development Hour to those who participated. The demand was such that subsequent dates were added to address multiple topics.



MEETINGS

BELS of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met six times during Fiscal Year 2015.

Five of the meetings were held at BELS office in Montgomery. One was held in Mobile.

LAW & RULE CHANGES

BELS of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors had no law changes during Fiscal Year 2015.

However, there were rule changes. The rule changes included the necessary changes to convert to biennial renewals; changing of fees for applications, renewals and reinstatements and updated exemptions for continuing education.

OPINIONS ISSUED

BELS of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors offered no declaratory opinions during Fiscal Year 2015.

BOARD ELECTION

The following Board members were elected to serve as leadership in Fiscal Year 2016:

- Chair - Marc Barter/PE
- Vice Chair - Frazier Christy PLS/PE
- Secretary - Elisabeth Hyde PE

CONTINUED ONTO NEXT PAGE

YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS CONTINUED

- Great Basin College's Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Land Surveying and Geomatics was approved as a degree equivalent to an ABET (Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology) land surveying degree. Once Great Basin is approved to operate in Alabama, this will provide an online degree program as a pathway to licensure for Professional Land Surveyors.
- Efforts began to change the format of the Alabama State Specific Land Surveying Examination. Research began on the possibility of developing a multi-state test to meet the requirement of Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.
- Throughout the year, there was significant discussion on the requirements to use QBS (Quality Based Selection) methods instead of a bidding process for engineering and land surveying services. Efforts were made to educate licensees outlining the requirements to use QBS. The differences between the procurement of engineering and the small property land surveyor were discussed at multiple BELS meetings. The Task Force on the Future of Land Surveying was asked to see if they could develop recommended QBS language that would differentiate between a simple property survey and the remaining types of proposals.

ENGINEERING

	Engineer Interns
Applications Received	133
Certifications Issued	201
Renewed	1,921
Total	2,122
FY 2014 Total	2,174
LOSS	52

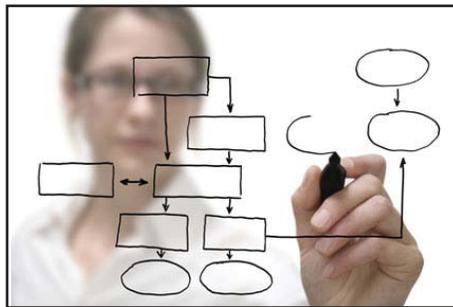
An Engineering Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects, pursuant to the law and who has been certified by BELS as an engineering intern.

Due to the changes in the Intern application process, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of interns being certified.

EXAM INFORMATION

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
PE Exam	365	169	46	196

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



The practice of engineering is defined as any professional service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as a consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, performing engineering surveys and studies, and the review of construction or other design products for the purpose of monitoring compliance with drawings and specification; any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with an utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products; equipment of a control, communications, computer, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property.

	Comity	Examination
Applications Received	580	247
Licensed	545	161

	Professional Engineers
Renewed	14,961
Licensed	706
Reinstated	59
Total	15,565
Total from FY 2014	15,399
GAIN	166

LAND SURVEYING

	Land Surveying Interns
Applications Received	1
Certifications Issued	1
Renewed	19
Total	20
Total From FY 2014	32
LOSS	12

A Land Surveying Intern is a person who has passed a Board approved examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects, pursuant to law and who has been certified by BELS as a land surveying intern.

Due to the changes in the Interns application process, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of interns being certified.

EXAM INFORMATION

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
PS Exam	10	8	80	2
State Specific Exam	14	13	93	1

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



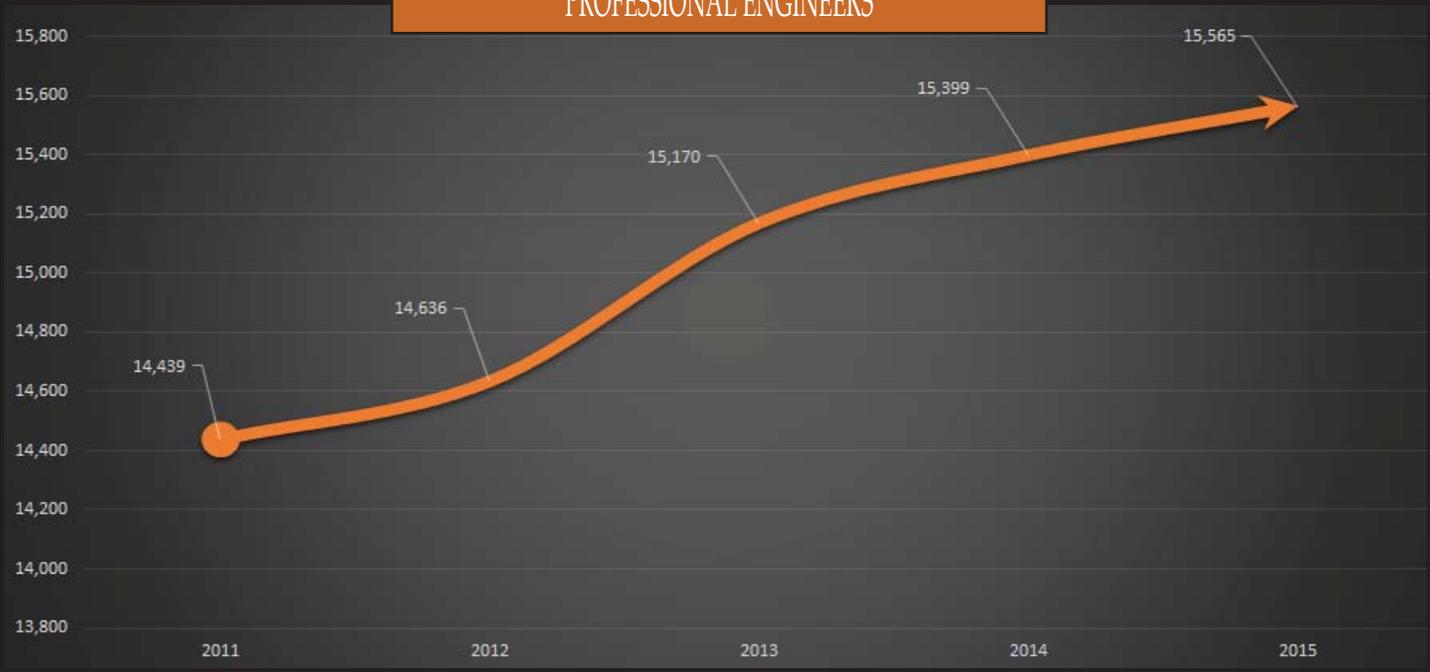
The practice of land surveying is defined as a professional service that includes, but is not limited to, consultation, project coordination, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, mapping, assembling and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, shape, areas, volumes, or physical features on the earth, or any part of the earth, and the utilization and development of these acts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project.

	Professional Land Surveyors
Applications Received	22
Total Licensed	23

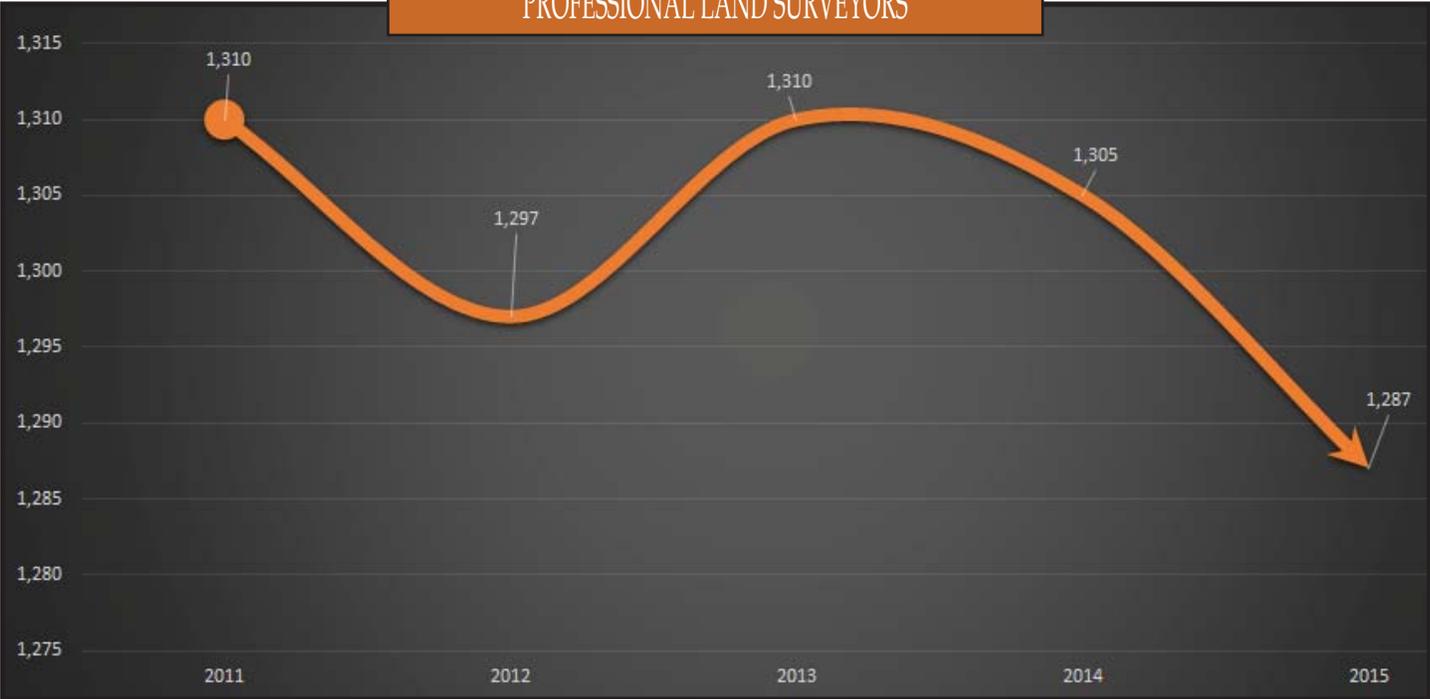
	Professional Land Surveyors
Renewed	1,260
Licensed	23
Reinstated	4
Total	1,287
Total from FY 2014	1,305
LOSS	18

FIVE-YEAR LICENSING TREND

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

	Engineering	Land Surveying
Applications Received	202	30
Certificates Issued FY 2015	191	23

A company desiring to offer engineering or surveying services to the public is permitted to do so through individual licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

Firms may also join together to offer engineering or land surveying services to the public as long as they meet the requirements of the Code of Alabama.

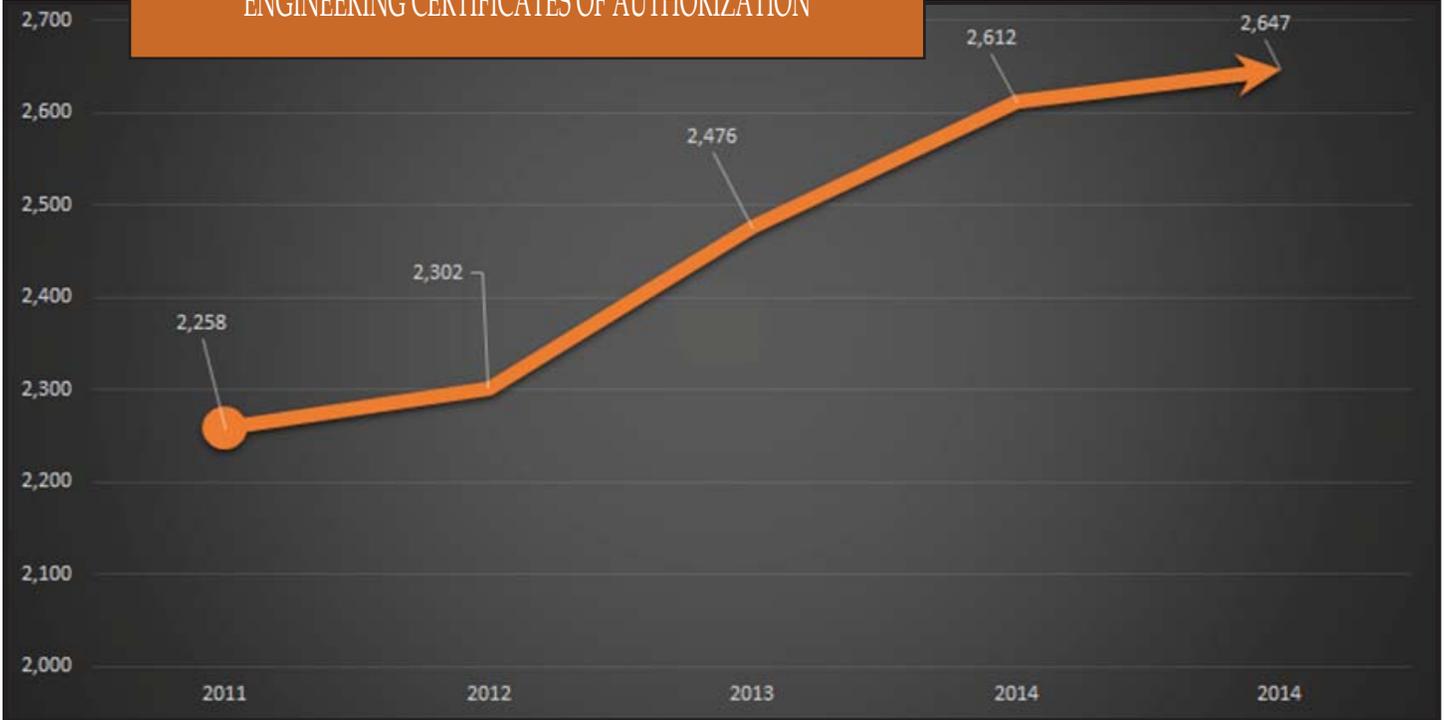


	Engineering Certificates
Renewed	2,446
Certificated	191
Reinstated	10
Total	2,647
Total from FY 2014	2,612
GAIN	35

	Land Surveying Certificates
Renewed	460
Certificated	23
Reinstated	3
Total	486
Total from FY 2014	489
LOSS	3

FIVE-YEAR CERTIFICATION TREND

ENGINEERING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



LAND SURVEYING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



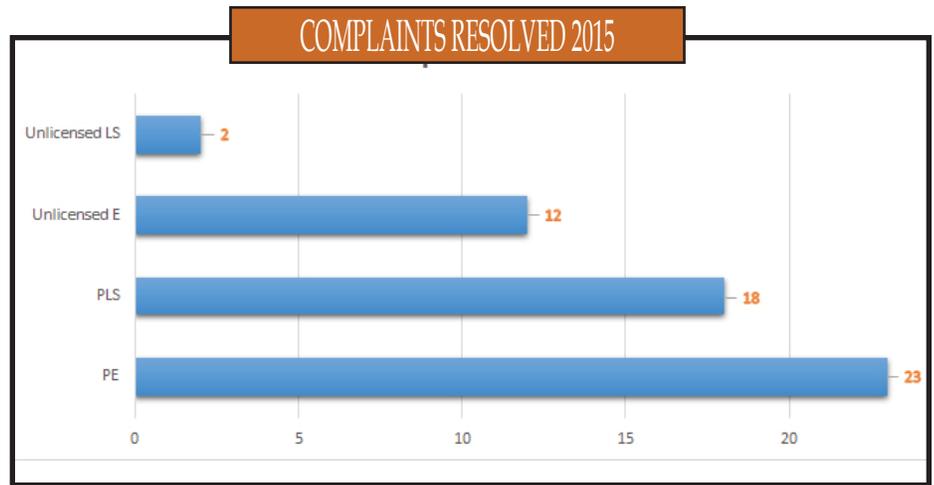
ENFORCEMENT

BELS conducts investigations that result in findings of no violation and both formal and informal actions.

Informal enforcement actions result in letters of caution or reprimand and are not made part of the public record.

Formal enforcement actions are public record and may include a fine, probation, license suspension or revocation and are made part of the public record.

In FY 2015, BELS resolved 55 complaints.



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2015	20	12	17	2
FY 2014	17	11	3	3
FY 2013	28	6	6	2
FY 2012	15	12	11	2
FY 2011	18	20	14	0
FY 2010	21	9	17	2



Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of the law or rules against any individual licensee, certified intern or corporation, partnership or firm holding a Certificate of Authorization.

Complaints may also be filed against unlicensed individuals or firms that offer or provide engineering or surveying services that violate the Code of Alabama. The complaints must be in writing and be filed with the Executive Director of BELS.

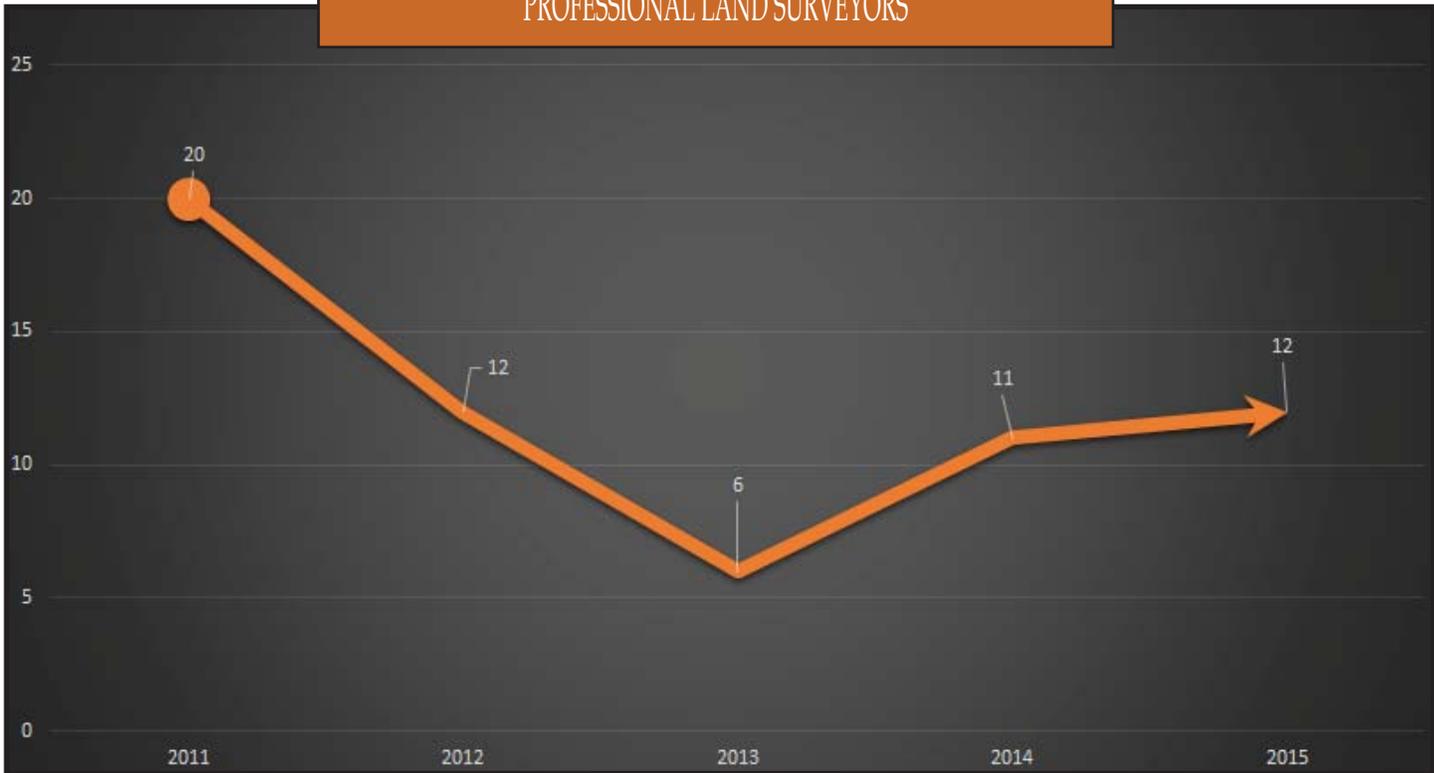
In FY 2015 BELS received 51 complaints regarding professional engineers, professional land surveyors and unlicensed individuals or firms offering engineering or land surveying services.

FIVE-YEAR ENFORCEMENT TREND

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



OPERATIONS | REVENUES

	UNAUDITED — Fiscal Year 2015
FY 2014 Carry Forward	\$520,868.05
Renewals Penalties	\$961,432.00
Reinstatements	\$28,185.00
Applications Licensure	\$83,220.00
Exams	\$2,500.00
Fines {Less Civil Penalties}	\$15,793.75
Duplicate Certificates	\$350.00
Labels	\$1,575.00
Returned Check Charges	\$60.00
Sale of Surplus	\$72.45
Returned Checks	\$330.00
TOTAL	\$1,614,386.25

BELS of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) is a self-funded agency. The authorization to spend funds is granted to BELS by the state legislature through the annual passage of the General Fund Budget.

The funds needed to cover expenditures are derived from the various fees charged by BELS and the fines collected from formal disciplinary actions taken against licensees and those holding certificates. Civil penalties collected are not kept as Board funds' but are deposited to the State General Fund. By law there is a fixed amount of funds that can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Any excess funds are transferred to the State General Fund.

SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS

\$85,720

SUBTOTAL FOR FINES

\$15,793.75

SUBTOTAL OF RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS

\$989,617

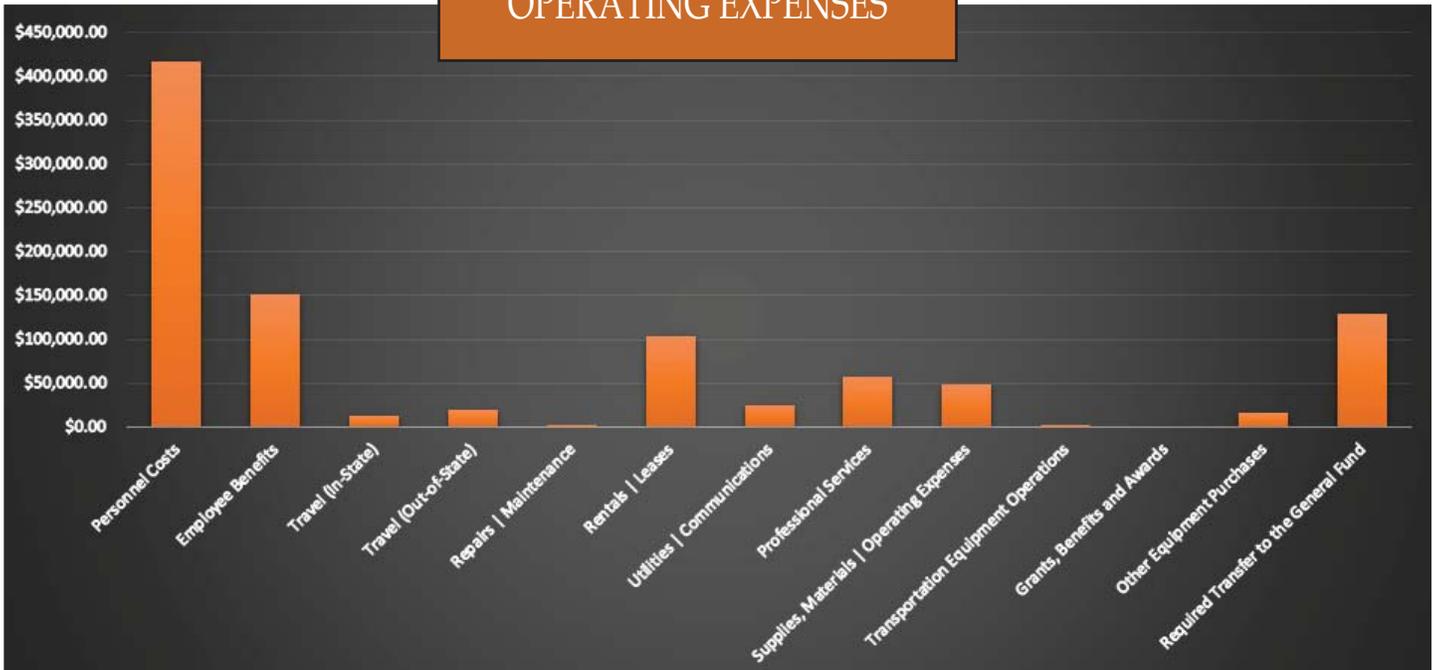
REVENUES TO DATE

\$1,614,386.25

OPERATIONS | EXPENDITURES

	UNAUDITED — TOTAL FY 2015
Personnel Costs	\$417,086.31
Employee Benefits	\$150,703.98
Travel (In-State)	\$13,099.79
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$20,398.78
Repairs Maintenance	\$1,694.51
Rentals Leases	\$103,912.47
Utilities Communications	\$25,088.73
Professional Services	\$56,603.47
Supplies, Materials Operating Expenses	\$48,541.89
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$1,589.61
Grants, Benefits and Awards	\$0.00
Other Equipment Purchases	\$15,724.54
Required Transfer to the General Fund	\$129,186.88
Civil Penalties <i>{Money not included in total Goes straight to General Fund}</i>	\$0
TOTAL	\$983,630.96

OPERATING EXPENSES



FUND BALANCE

\$630,755.29

I, M. Elisabeth Hyde, Secretary of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, do hereby attest, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this Financial Statement is a correct statement of the finance of BELS during the period shown.

M. Elisabeth Hyde

M. Elisabeth Hyde, Secretary 2014-2015

Attest

Marc Barter

Marc Barter, Chair 2014-2015