

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS





Alabama Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

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Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762
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**To The Honorable Robert Bentley:
Governor of the State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama**

ROBERT BENTLEY,
Governor

REGINA DINGER,
Executive Director

FRAZIER CHRISTY,
PLS | PE

LIZ HYDE,
PE

NATHAN JOHNSON,
PLS | PE

MARC BARTER,
PE

RANDALL WHORTON,
PE

RICHARD GRACE,
PE

CHARLES WILLIS,
PE

Governor Bentley:

We hand you herewith the 2016 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 S. Barter, Chair, 2015-2016
Alabama State Board of Licensure
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**



our BOARD



****Marc Barter, PE**
Chair
Mobile



Frazier Christy PLS/PE
Vice Chair
Birmingham



Elisabeth Hyde PE
Secretary
Birmingham



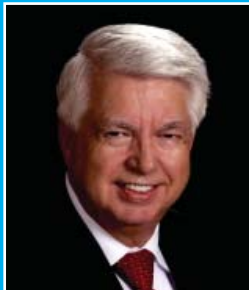
*** Charles Willis, PE**
Brookwood



Richard Grace PE/PLS
Decatur



Nathan Johnson PLS/PE
Huntsville



Randall Whorton PE
Anniston

BELS consists of five professional engineers and two professional 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 professional 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.

* - Resigned from the Board during July meeting

** - Reappointed by Gov. Robert Bentley in July 2016



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. We 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

2015-2016 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



Frazier Christy speaks during induction



Marc Barter PE
Mobile



Charles Willis, PE
Brookwood



Liz Hyde, PE
Birmingham

- **BELS Vice Chair Frazier Christy** was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame February 20 during a reception and dinner in Mobile.
- During Fiscal Year 2016, BELS offered two webinars focusing on the importance and proper use of seals and the audit process. The two free educational opportunities drew more than a thousand licensees as multiple presentations were called for. As a result, BELS will double the FY 2017 offerings and continue efforts of streamlining the process.
- **Former Chair Marc Barter** became the first BELS member under the current administration to be reappointed. Originally, slated to expire June 2016 Gov. Robert Bentley reappointed Barter to serve a second five-year term. The new term expires in April 2021.
- Offered the last paper State Specific land surveying examination in August. The exam will no longer be given in conjunction with the national exam since it has been converted to a computer-based format. An online version of the exam was created, and is offered and administered in-house.
- BELS social media presence continues to grow as the official Facebook page has grown from 53 likes to nearly 250 and growing as content is updated daily. Plans are in place to enhance BELS footprint.
- **BELS member Charles Willis**, due to heavy work commitments, resigned his post during the July meeting. The nominating committee was informed of the vacancy and immediately formed a list of possible replacements. That list is now in the Governor's Office awaiting his selection.
- **BELS member Liz Hyde** added to her history-making accolades by not only becoming the first female to hold a seat on the Board, but also ascending into a leadership position as Secretary.
- BELS staff changed during FY 2016 special investigator, Tracy Pezold, and staff accountant Heather Wilson joined the staff.



MEETINGS

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS) conducted eight meetings during Fiscal Year 2016.

LAW & RULE CHANGES

There were no law or rule changes enacted during FY 2016. Efforts will continue to submit law changes in the 2017 Legislative General Session.

Efforts to revise the rules regarding Qualification-Based Selection, have begun, but will not be finalized until Fiscal Year 2017.

OPINIONS ISSUED

During Fiscal Year 2016, BELS issued the following opinions:

- Subdivision Plats and the types of certifications allowed on the Plats
- A Declaratory Ruling addressing the question: Does the sealing of A/V drawings not produced or supervised by a licensed PE constitute a violation of BELS rules
- A Declaratory Ruling on the sealing of products developed using the Building Information Management Software known as REVIT

BOARD ELECTION

The following Board members were elected to serve as leadership in Fiscal Year 2017:

- Chair - Frazier Christy PLS | PE
- Vice Chair - Elisabeth Hyde PE
- Secretary - Nathan Johnson PLS | PE

ENGINEERING

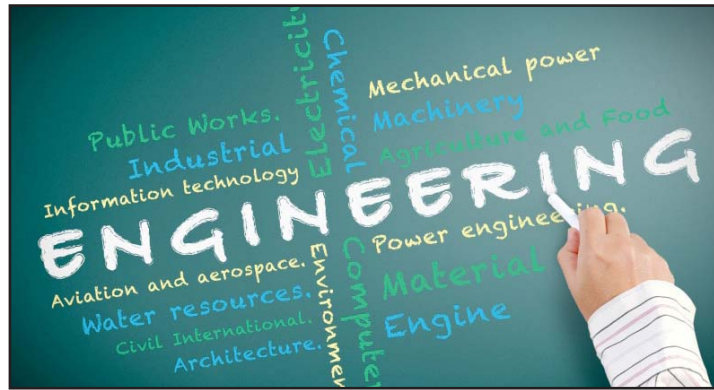
	Engineer Interns
Applications Received	196
Certifications Issued	258
Renewed	1,655
Total	1,913
FY 2015 Total	2,122
LOSS	209

An Engineer 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	397	222	56	175



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	572	267
Licensed	502	220

	Professional Engineers
Renewed	14,955
Licensed	722
Reinstated	48
Total	15,725
Total from FY 2015	15,565
GAIN	160

LAND SURVEYING

	Land Surveyor Interns
Applications Received	1
Certifications Issued	1
Renewed	15
Total	16
Total From FY 2015	20
LOSS	4

A Land Surveyor 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	5	50	5
State Specific Exam	27	24	89	3



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	21
Total Licensed	16

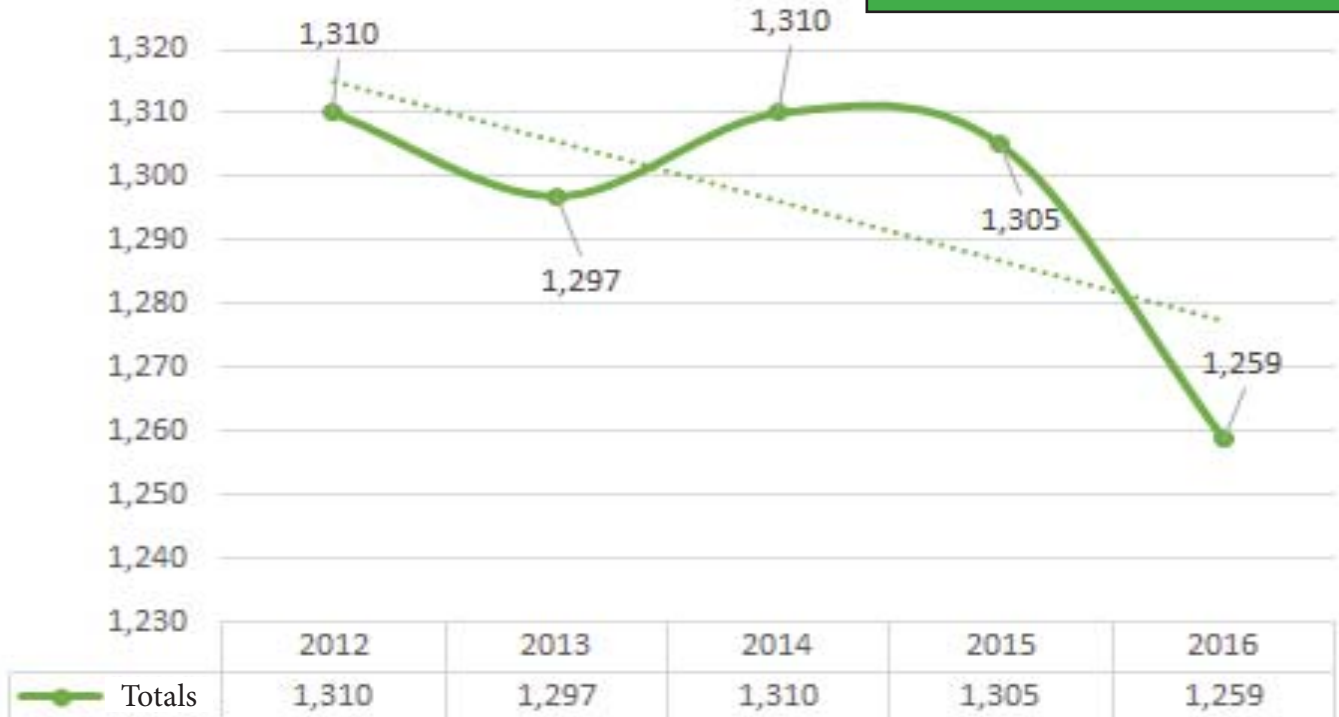
	Professional Land Surveyors
Renewed	1,235
Licensed	16
Reinstated	8
Total	1,259
Total from FY 2015	1,287
LOSS	28

FIVE-YEAR LICENSING TREND

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



..... -- Reflects trend over the five-year span

CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

	Engineering	Land Surveying
Applications Received	199	35
Certificates Issued FY 2016	180	32

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.

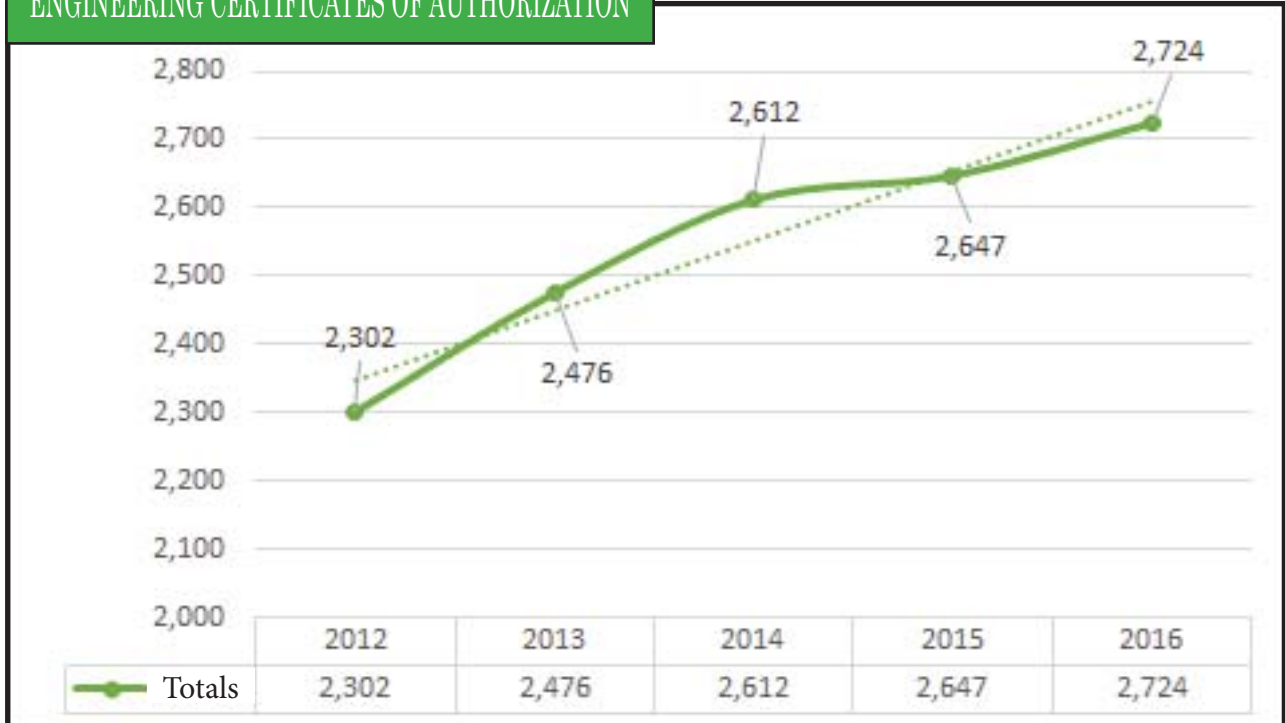


	Engineering Certificates
Renewed	2,533
Certificated	180
Reinstated	11
Total	2,724
Total from FY 2015	2,647
GAIN	77

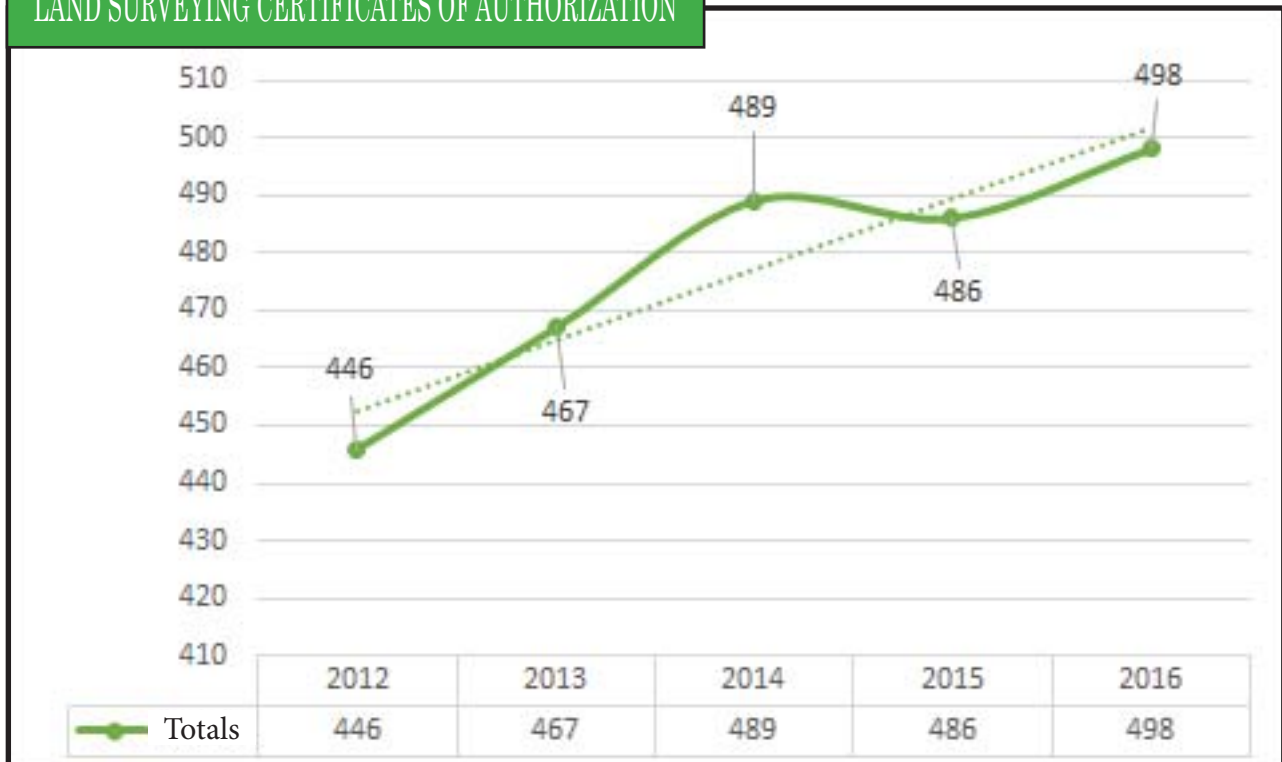
	Land Surveying Certificates
Renewed	462
Certificated	32
Reinstated	4
Total	498
Total from FY 2015	486
GAIN	12

FIVE-YEAR CERTIFICATION TREND

ENGINEERING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



LAND SURVEYING CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION



.... -- Reflects trend over the five-year span

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 which are not part of the public record.

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

In FY 2016, BELS resolved 42 complaints.

COMPLAINTS RESOLVED



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2016*	9	9	9	0
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

* ---- BELS investigated one complaint involving an Engineer Intern

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

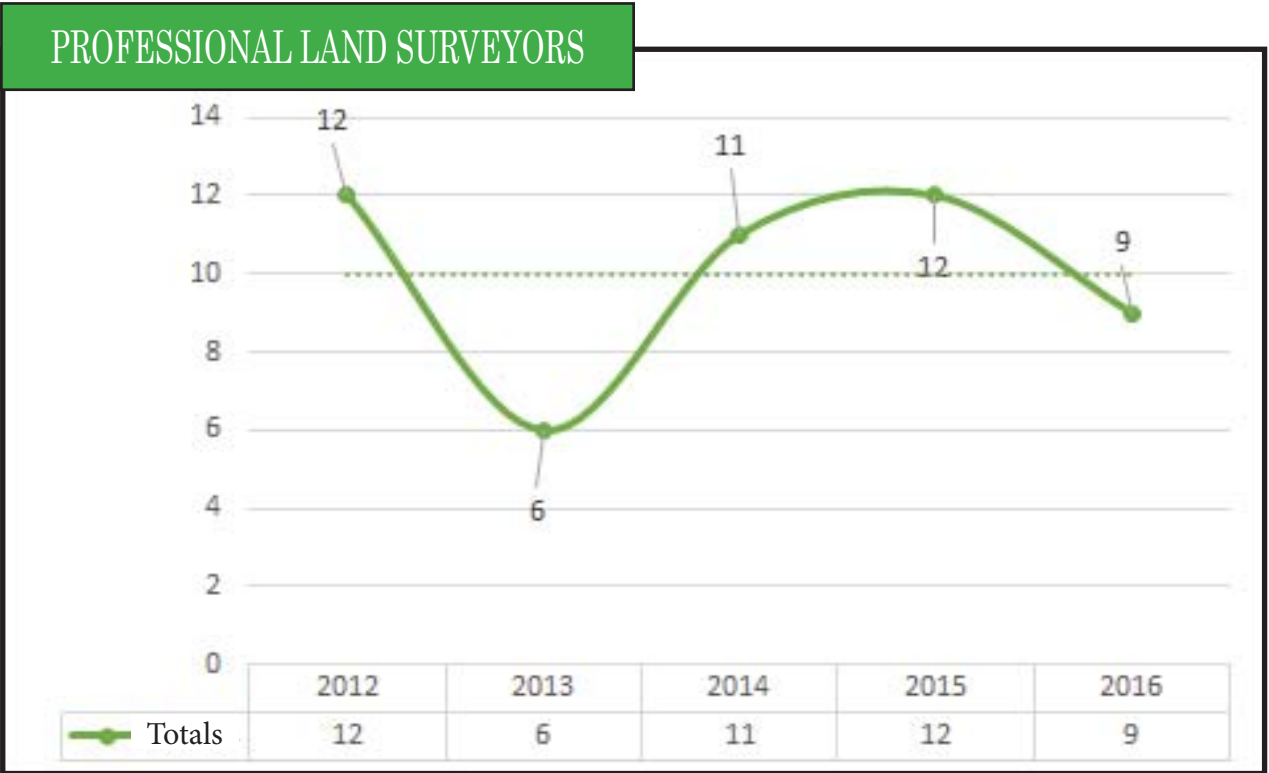
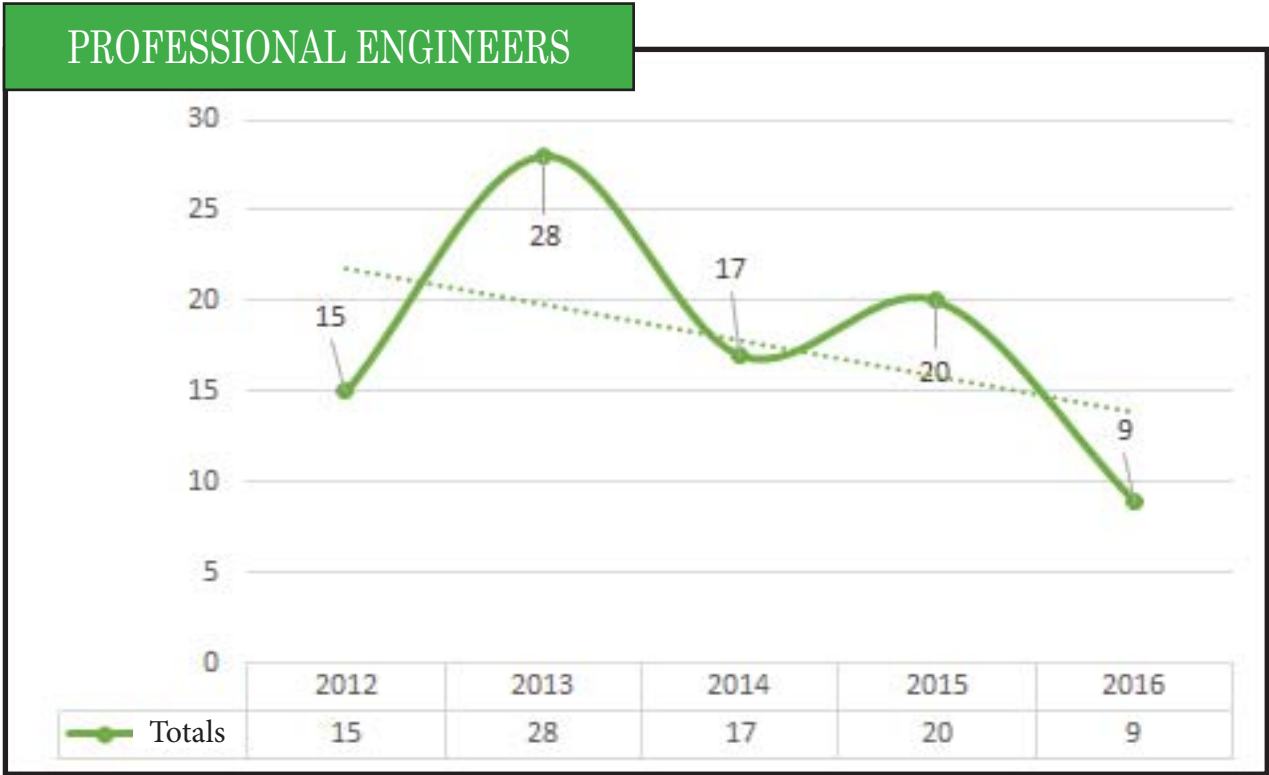


Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of the law or rules against any individual licensee, certified intern or corporation, partnership or firm holding a Certificate of Authorization.

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 2016 BELS received 28 complaints regarding professional engineers, professional land surveyors, an engineer intern, and unlicensed individuals or firms offering engineering services.

FIVE-YEAR ENFORCEMENT TREND



..... -- Reflects trend over the five-year span

OPERATIONS | REVENUES

	UNAUDITED — Fiscal Year 2016
FY 2015 Carry Forward	\$630,755.29
Renewals	\$1,735,722
Late Penalties	\$134,400
Reinstatements	\$24,750
Applications Licensure	\$118,925
Exams	\$7,905
Fines {Less Civil Penalties}	\$23,807
Duplicate Certificates	\$475
Labels	\$1,350
Returned Check Charges	\$0
Sale of Surplus	\$0
Returned Checks	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,054,131.10

BELS

The Board 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 over 25% of the Annual Budget are transferred to the State General Fund.

SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS
\$126,830

SUBTOTAL FOR FINES
\$23,807

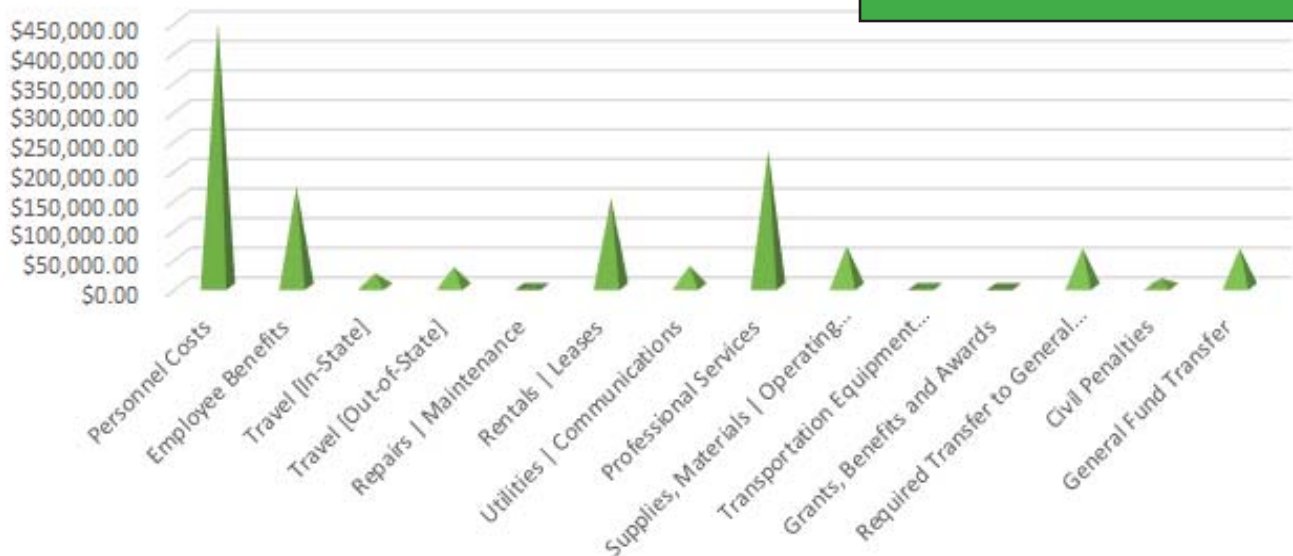
SUBTOTAL OF RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS
\$1,894,872

REVENUES TO DATE
\$2,054,131.10

OPERATIONS | EXPENDITURES

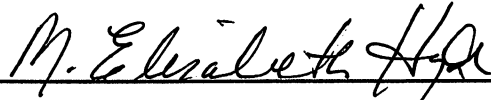
	UNAUDITED — TOTAL FY 2016
Personnel Costs	\$447,455.39
Employee Benefits	\$168,725.92
Travel (In-State)	\$22,860.07
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$33,539.30
Repairs Maintenance	\$3,390.19
Rentals Leases	\$149,075.17
Utilities Communications	\$35,792.52
Professional Services	\$230,482.15
Supplies, Materials Operating Expenses	\$68,852.31
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$4,239.40
Grants, Benefits and Awards	\$20.45
Other Equipment Purchases	\$8,248.25
Required Transfer to the General Fund	\$64,987.87
Civil Penalties <i>{Money not included in total Goes straight to General Fund}</i>	\$14,406.75
Transfer To General Fund (25%)	\$64,987.87
TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE	\$1,169,681.12

OPERATING EXPENSES

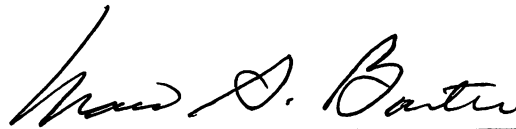


FUND BALANCE
\$1,289,038.11

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Elisabeth Hyde", positioned above a horizontal line.

M. Elisabeth Hyde, Secretary 2015-2016

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marc S. Barter", positioned above a horizontal line.

Marc S. Barter, Chair 2015-2016