



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## Alabama Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

---

100 North Union Street, Suite 382  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762  
Phone: 866-461-7640  
Fax: 334-242-5105

ELISABETH HYDE,  
PE

NATHAN JOHNSON,  
PLS | PE

RANDALL WHORTON,  
PE

RICHARD GRACE,  
PE | PLS

HELEN ADAMS-MORALES  
PE

MARC BARTER,  
PE

FRAZIER CHRISTY,  
PLS | PE

JOSEPH F. BREIGHNER, JR.,  
PLS

RICK HUETT,  
*Executive Director*

**To The Honorable Kay Ivey:  
Governor of the State of Alabama  
Montgomery, Alabama**

Governor Ivey:

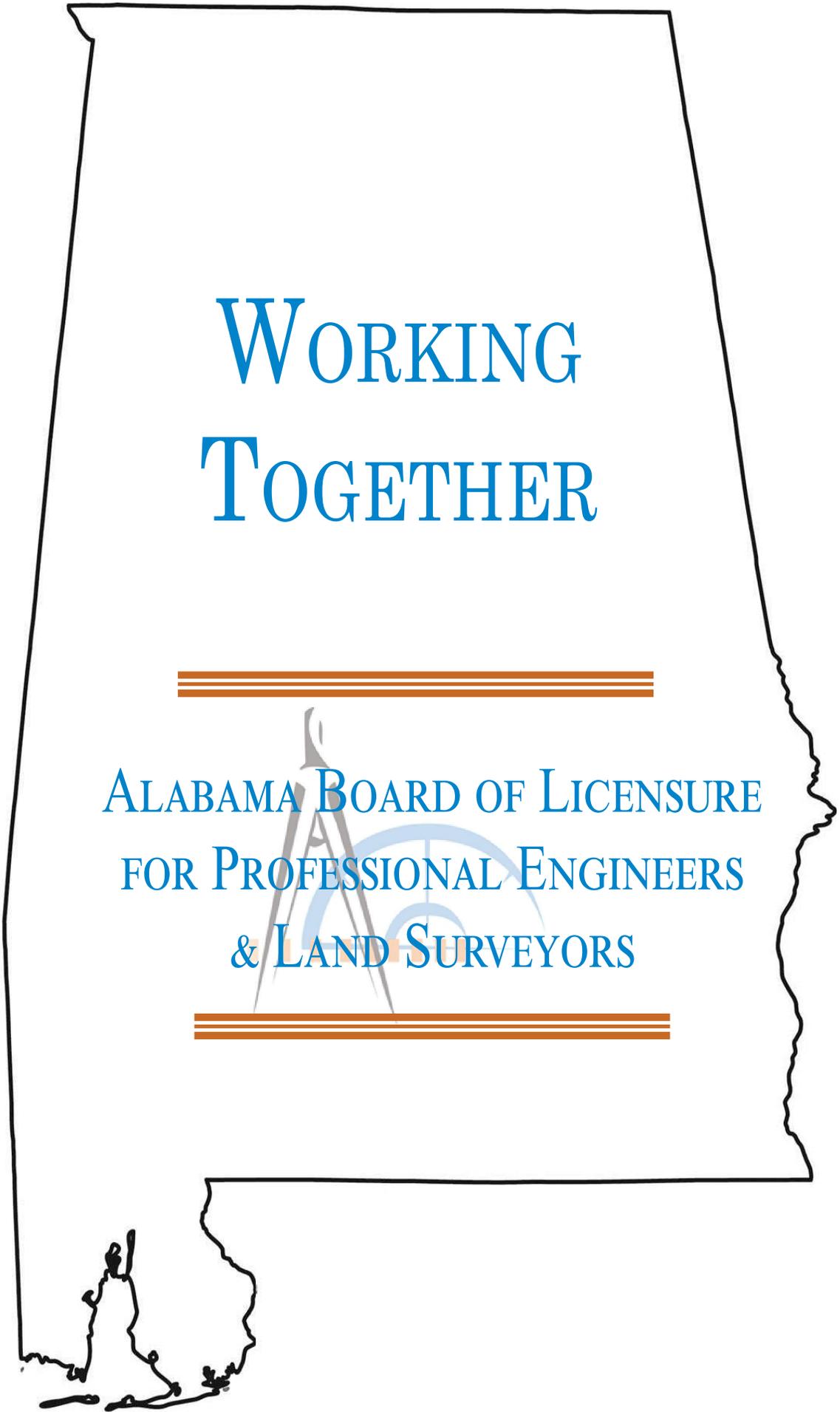
We hand you herewith the 2018-2018 Annual Report of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as provided under Title 34, Chapter 11 Code of Alabama 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

**M. Elisabeth Hyde, Chair, 2017-2018  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**

**Randall Whorton, Secretary, 2017-2018  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**





# WORKING TOGETHER

---

---



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

---

---



Kay Ivey  
Governor

## Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

100 N. Union Street, Suite 382  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 304451  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4451

Phone: (334) 242-5568  
Toll Free: (866) 461-7640  
Fax: (334) 242-5105  
[www.bels.alabama.gov](http://www.bels.alabama.gov)

Greetings,

It's truly great what can be achieved when everyone rolls up their sleeves and works together. That phrase "Working Together" sums up the past year as the Board, ACEC, ASCE and ASPLS, and a key legislator all dug in to craft a bill that was five years in the making.

For five years, the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors worked to create an instrument that would better allow it to fulfill its mission to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. For four of those years that instrument never saw the light of day. In 2017, a bill was drafted but died within hours of being discussed in committee.

A new course was needed and with that a new captain stepped forward to chart it. Senator Clyde Chambliss took control and built a bill that, in his words, "wasn't going to make everyone happy, but had things in it that everyone can agree upon." And, through his guidance, it worked. For that, we are eternally grateful.

The Bill – filed as Senate Bill 316 – brought with it more than 80 pages of public protection, transparency in our operations and two public board members. Each of these changes, which went into effect in July, were created to help our board better fulfill its promise of protecting the public health, safety and welfare. These changes to our law, and subsequent changes to our Administrative Code, were needed and will benefit the public, the professionals we currently serve, and the future professionals just beginning their professional licensure journey.

Five years of hard work, town hall meetings and research finally came to fruition and with the stroke of her pen – surrounded by representative stakeholders – Gov. Kay Ivey transformed Senate Bill 316 into Act 550. All of the changes went into effect in July of this year.

The opportunity for success was present and everyone recognized it. To that end, we are thankful. And now our focus lies on continued common ground as the newly created Public Member nominating committee will soon begin their search. The future, for our board is bright. It shines that way due to the sweat equity, commitment and teamwork of multiple entities.

Sincerely,

Rick Huett  
Executive Director

our **BOARD**



Elisabeth Hyde PE  
**Chair**  
Birmingham



Nathan Johnson PLS/PE  
**Vice Chair**  
Huntsville



Randall Whorton PE  
**Secretary**  
Anniston



Helen Adams-Morales  
PE / Mobile



Richard Grace  
PE/PLS / Decatur



Marc Barter  
PE / Mobile



Frazier Christy  
PLS/PE\*\* / Birmingham



Joseph Breighner, Jr.\*\*  
PLS / Birmingham



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.*

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 of nine different societies, 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.

**\*\*Christy served past his appointment and was replaced by Breighner in August.**

# BELS SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

## Hyde family makes BELS history

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

Liz Hyde was in a place no one before her has ever been. Being the first female to serve on the Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors and the first to serve as its chair, she found herself being the first mother to have the opportunity to sign her daughter's certificate of licensure.

"I can truthfully say this has never happened before," Hyde said with a smile.

"I'm proud of my daughter and what's she's accomplished. I really think I'm going to start tearing up."

Hyde, during the June 21 meeting of BELS, sat alongside her daughter Hannah, signed her license and gave her a great big motherly hug as the remaining board members and those in atten-



Then-Board Chair Liz Hyde makes history by being first BELS leader to sign her child's professional certificate. Hyde signed her daughter, Hannah's, certificate during the June meeting.

dance celebrated.

"There are not adequate words to describe how proud I am," Hyde said after the meeting. "The day we (Hyde and her husband Rusty) found out, I could not stop smiling. About a year ago, I realized that if she passed the exam (in 2018), I would sign the certificate. This is a lasting legacy and it means more to me than you can imagine."

## Chambliss champions passage of BELS' bill

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

Senator Clyde Chambliss (elected in 2014) has been busy during the 2018 Legislative Session and, for his efforts, he was named ACEC-Alabama's Legislator of the Quadrenium.

The gentleman from Prattville has sponsored a litany of bills ranging from education policy, veterans' benefits, state employee pay raises and – for the purposes of this article – law change regarding the engineering and land surveying professions in Alabama.

"A lot of hard work, negotiation and compromise has gone into making this bill what it is," said Chambliss



(in March).

"Certainly, it's not all that I want it to be, but hopefully we can get it passed and then continue to work out the details with future legislation."

Building off the previous BELS efforts, Chambliss took extra time

to bring representatives from ACEC-Alabama, ASCE, ASPLS and the Board to the table to hash out the differences and draft a bill that could move forward through the legislative process with little complication.

That hard work paid off March 22 when the House voted 92-1 to pass the bill.

SB 316 was sent to the governor's desk, where it was signed into law April 6 and renamed Act 2018-550.

But this hasn't been Chambliss's lone focus during the 2018 session: "Stabilize the General Budget. I've been fortunate enough to be named Senate Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force for Budget Reform. We've done a lot of work, but we have a long way to go."

# BELS SPOTLIGHT EVENTS



## *Turner honored with resolution*

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

**D**r. Dan Turner’s career has been long and winding and his resume reflects it. The Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama has served as BELS Chair and then NCEES President.

In January, he was the guest of honor at a BELS-hosted luncheon. Following the meal Liz Hyde, BELS chair, presented Dr. Turner with a Senate Resolution signed by Senator Gerald Allen.

Hyde, at the behest of attorney Ben Albritton, read the resolution into the minutes of the meeting: “Whereas, it is with the highest commendation that Dr. Daniel Turner is recognized for distinguished record of services to the Board of Engineers.

Turner was humbled by the presentation.

Senator Clyde Chambliss (PE / Prattville) was instrumental in the passage of Act 550. He is pictured (top) with the stakeholder groups witnessing Gov. Kay Ivey affix her signature; (bottom left) speaking to the committee encouraging passage of Senate Bill 316 and (bottom right) celebrating the successful passage.

## *Years of labor came to fruition this spring*

By Griffin Pritchard |  
Public Information Specialist

**T**he long-gestating law change came to fruition during the 2018 Alabama Legislative Session. Spanning nearly five years, various proposed changes to the BELS’ law were identified and debated and ultimately shaped into a bill that became a law and will go into effect July 1.

In 2017, BELS was able to get an Immunity Bill through the process, but the main bill failed to reach the committee level and essentially languished until the end of the session.

In 2018, a different approach was taken.

That new approach worked as Sen-

ate Bill 316 was passed by both houses and then sent to the Governor’s desk on March 27.

She signed it into law April 6.

Senator Clyde Chambliss sat down with BELS at the end of 2017 and presented his goals for the new bill prior to the start of the 2018 session.

According to the minutes of the November Board meeting (paraphrasing): “The two primary areas discussed in [Chambliss’s] proposal included QBS and Board Composition.”

Along with Chambliss, were representatives of ACEC-Alabama, ASCE and ASPLS who each had the opportunity to provide input that, ultimately, helped shape what would become SB316.

# BELS OUTREACH EVENTS

**D**r. Seuss says “the more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.” That applies to the past fiscal year as outreach efforts spanned the state from Huntsville to Mobile and from Auburn to Mississippi. In 2017, we touted the importance of “Education through Outreach” and attended 15 events throughout the state.

A year later, that effort nearly doubled as BELS’ staff attended 28 events ranging from visits to colleges to exhibiting at home shows. Our outreach efforts even struck an international tenor when Special Investigator Bob Herbert was invited to participate in the launch of CLEAR’s series of podcasts focusing on different aspects of regulation.

CLEAR, an international licensing and regulatory organization has members in Canada, Ireland and throughout the United Kingdom. Herbert’s interview, focusing on Roddy Fitzgerald / Commodore Steel, stemmed from being named Investigator of the Year.

These myriad efforts are aimed at helping the different stakeholder groups (students, professionals and the public) better understand how the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors fulfil their mission of protecting the public health, safety and welfare.

By doubling the efforts and the events over the course of the year, we are better able to take the temperature of the general public and to see how past ventures have worked.

The presentations - for the most part - were to discuss ethics and the law change. But at the same time when we were in front of college students, we changed the message to one of encouragement: discussing what they need to do in order to reach Professional status.



# OUTREACH EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Role
ASPLS Conference	Pelham	October 2017	Exhibitor / Lunch Speaker
Alabama Fire Marshals / Arson Investigators Conference	Mobile	November 5-8, 2017	Exhibitor / Speaker
ASPLS - Troy University Chapter	Troy	November 9, 2017	Lunchtime Speaker
North Alabama Code Officials	Decatur	November 15-17, 2017	Exhibitor / Speaker
ACEC Executive Committee Meeting	Birmingham	January 25, 2018	Participant / Board Rep.
Greater Montgomery Area Home Builder Expo	Montgomery	February 23-25, 2018	Exhibitor
University of South Alabama Electrical Engineering Society	Mobile	February 28, 2018	Speaker
Greater Birmingham Chapter (ASPLS)	Birmingham	March 22, 2018	Speaker
National Society of Black Engineers (Alabama St.)	Montgomery	April 3, 2018	Speaker
AAPGMI	Auburn	April 4, 2018	Exhibitor / Lunch Speaker
ASCE Chapter Meeting	Dothan	April 11, 2018	Speaker
ASCE Chapter Meeting	Huntsville	May 1, 2018	Speaker
Code Officials Association of Alabama	Orange Beach	May 14-16, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
Alabama League of Municipalities	Montgomery	May 20-21, 2018	Exhibitor
Tuskegee University Engineering Department	Tuskegee	May 24, 2018	Speaker
National Society of Black Engineers (Alabama St.)	Montgomery	June 5, 2018	Speaker
ASPE / MES Meeting	Biloxi, Mississippi	June 10-13, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
Alabama Disaster Preparedness Conference	Birmingham	June 27, 2018	Exhibitor
ASCE / APWA Conference	Orange Beach	July 16-18, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
UAH Engineering Forum	Huntsville	August 2-4, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
East Alabama Code Officials	Oxford	August 9, 2018	Lunchtime Speaker
Central Alabama Code Officials	Hoover	August 16, 2018	Lunchtime Speaker
Association of County Commissioners - Engineers Breakout Session	Orange Beach	August 22-23, 2018	Speaker
Structural Engineers of Alabama	Pelham	August 28, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
Tuskegee University Engineering Department	Tuskegee	September 10, 2018	Speaker
Auburn University Engineering Department	Auburn	September 12, 2018	Speaker

# BY THE NUMBERS



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

# OPERATIONS | EXPENDITURES

	AUDITED — TOTAL FY 2018
Personnel Costs	\$351,138.38
Employee Benefits	\$139,530.38
Travel (In-State)	\$24,928.65
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$19,563.99
Repairs   Maintenance	\$768.38
Rentals   Leases	\$148,684.45
Utilities   Communications	\$14,241.29
Professional Services	\$180,920.77
Supplies, Materials   Operating Expenses	\$51,921.78
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$1,561.97
Other Equipment Purchases	\$5,793.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$939,053.21</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND (25%)</b>	<b>\$216,804.41</b>
<b>2017 ENCUMBERANCES</b>	<b>\$29,758.38</b>

## FUND BALANCE \$ 1,587,716.98



**Scenes from the past year:**  
 Pictured are: (Top left) Special Investigator Bruce Thornell (Top Right) Board members Liz Hyde and Mark Barter discuss aspects of BELS Code during a work session. (Bottom left) Executive Director Rick Huett listens intently to a discussion and (Bottom right) Staff Accountant Heather Wilson poses for a photo



# OPERATIONS | REVENUES

	UNAUDITED — Fiscal Year 2018
FY 2017 Carry Forward	\$687,092.54
Renewals	\$1,770,340.00
Late Penalties	\$129,000.00
Reinstatements   Reissuance	\$23,535.00
Applications   Licensure	\$129,710.00
Exams	\$1,000.00
Fines   Civil Penalties	\$12,484.00
Civil Penalties to General Fund	(\$300)
Duplicate Certificates	\$500.00
Labels	\$675.00
Returned Check Charges	\$30.00
Sale of Surplus & Miscellaneous	\$273.88
Sublease	\$13,992.56
Status Change	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,086,240.44</b>

SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS  
\$130,710.00

SUBTOTAL FOR FINES  
\$12,184.00

REVENUES TO DATE  
\$2,086,240.44

RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS | STATUS CHANGE  
\$1,798,850

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 33% of the Annual Budget are transferred to the State General Fund.



**Scenes from the past year:** Pictured are: (left) Previous Board Chair Liz Hyde poses with her daughter, Hannah. (above) Board member Mark Barter, Sen. Clyde Chambliss and Griffin Pritchard (right) Board members Nathan Johnson and Frazier Christy listen to discussion from the Board of Architecture’s Dan Bennett.

# PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

	Engineer Interns
Certifications Issued	230
FY 2018 Total Engineer Interns	1,652
FY 2017 Total Engineer Interns	2,042
Loss	390

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.

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.

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
PE Exam - October	187	93	50	94
PE Exam- April	163	74	45	89

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. Professional Engineers renew on a biennial basis.

	Comity	Examination
Applications Received	715	99
Licensed	667	160

	Professional Engineers
Licensed	756
Reinstated	40
Inactive	397
FY 2018 Active Licensees	15,826
FY 17 Total Number of Licensees	16,614
Loss	(788)



## FUTURE CITY

The Future City Competition, a nationwide event held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, intersects engineering, land surveying and imagination as students build self-sustaining cities.



# PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

	Land Surveyor Interns
Certifications Issued	5
FY 2018 Total Land Surveyor Interns	15
FY 2017 Total Land Surveyor Interns	15
Gain / Loss	0

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.

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.

	Number Given	Number Passed	% Passed	Number Failed
State Specific Exam	15	15	100	0

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 renew on a biennial basis.

	Professional Land Surveyors
Applications Received	14
Total Licensed	15

	Professional Land Surveyors
Licensed	15
Reinstated	3
Inactive	62
FY 2018 Active Licensees	1,078
FY 17 Total Number of Licensees	1,239
Loss	161

## TROY WINS, AGAIN

For the second time, Troy University's Geomatics and Surveying program was recognized as being one of the best in the nation by NCEES.



# CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

	Engineering	Land Surveying
Applications Received	219	26
Certificates Issued FY 2018	219	26

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. Certificates of Authorization are renewed on an annual basis.

	Engineering Certificates
Renewed	2,426
Certificated	219
Reinstated	14
FY 2018 Total	2,159
FY 2017 Total	2,621
Loss	462

	Land Surveying Certificates
Renewed	416
Certificated	26
Reinstated	3
FY 2018 Total	445
FY 2017 Total	453
Loss	8



## LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

To celebrate the passage of Act 550-2018 BELS, along with ACEC and ASCE, hosted a legislative reception. The bill's success - thanks to the help of Senator Clyde Chambliss and Representative Randy Wood - allows BELS to expand from seven to nine members. It also clarifies profession-related language regarding QBS and expands different pathways to licensure. Pictured are (top) Sen. Clyde Chambliss and Rep. Randy Wood speak to the legislative process and the passage of Act 550. (bottom left) Brad Williams shares a laugh with board members Richard Grace and Nathan Johnson, (right) Bonnie Kelly and Rick Huett watch as everyone gathers for the reception celebrating the bill's passage.

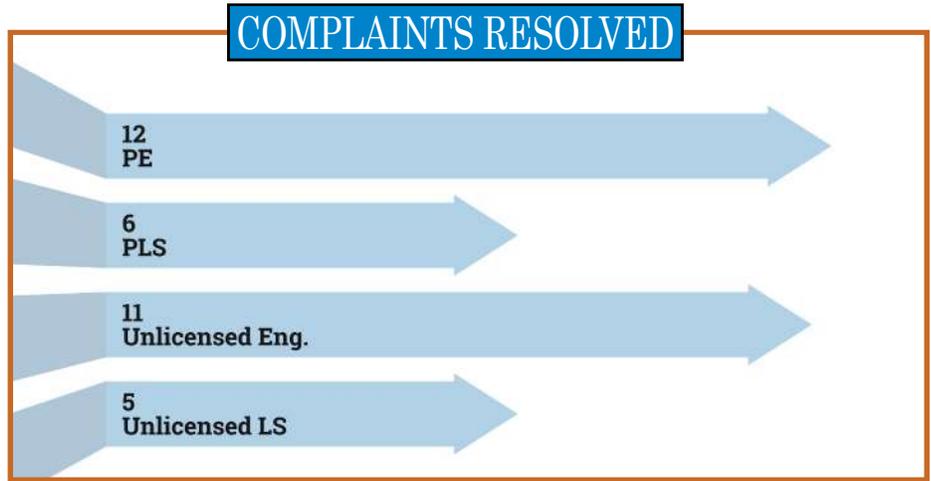


# ENFORCEMENT

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

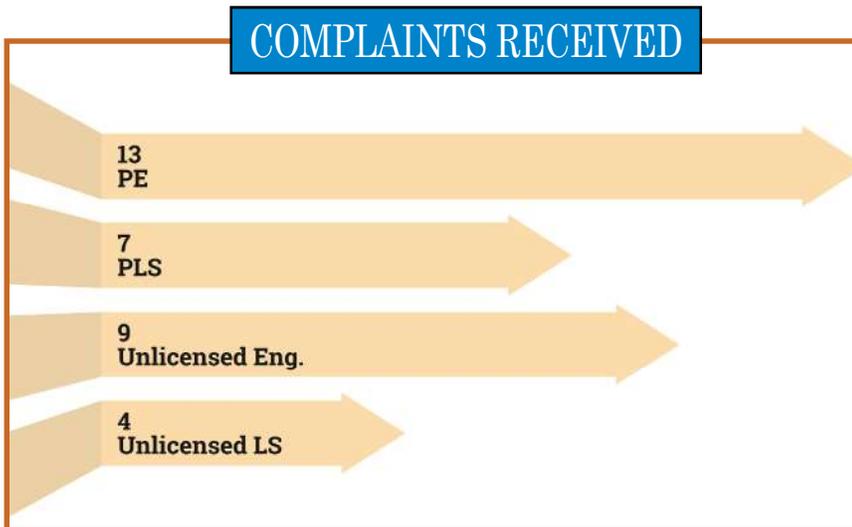
Informal enforcement actions result in letters of caution which are not part of public record. Formal enforcement actions are public record and may include a fine, probation, license suspension or revocation.

In FY 2018, BELS brought closure to 34 complaints.



## COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

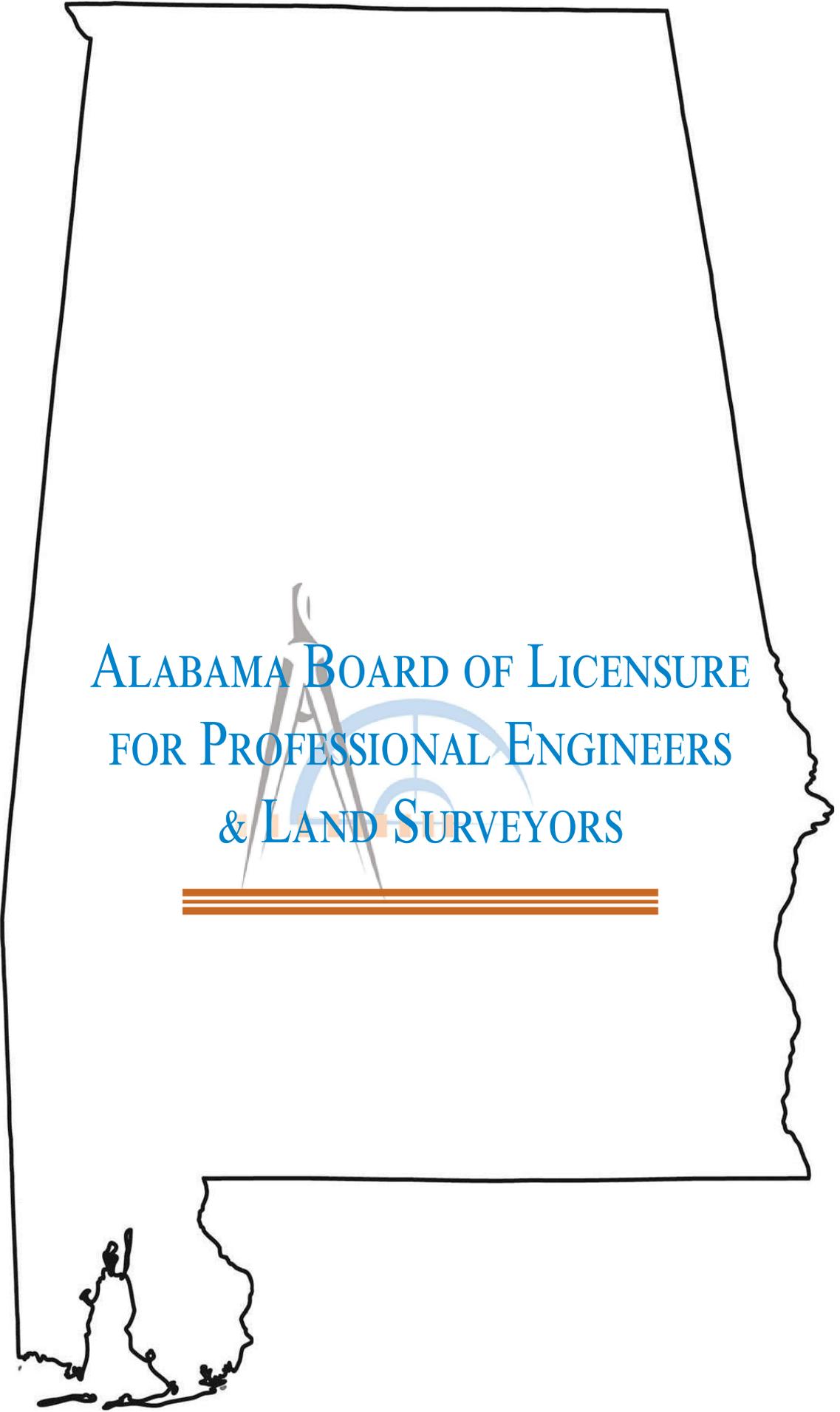
	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2018	13	7	9	4
FY 2017	14	4	13	3
FY 2016	9	9	9	0
FY 2015	20	12	17	2
FY 2014	17	11	3	3
FY 2013	28	6	6	2
FY 2012	15	12	11	2
FY 2011	18	20	14	0



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 2018 BELS received 33 complaints regarding professional engineers, professional land surveyors, an engineer intern, and unlicensed individuals or firms offering engineering services.



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS



---

---