

# BELS NEWSLETTER



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

## July 2026 Edition

### INSIDE:

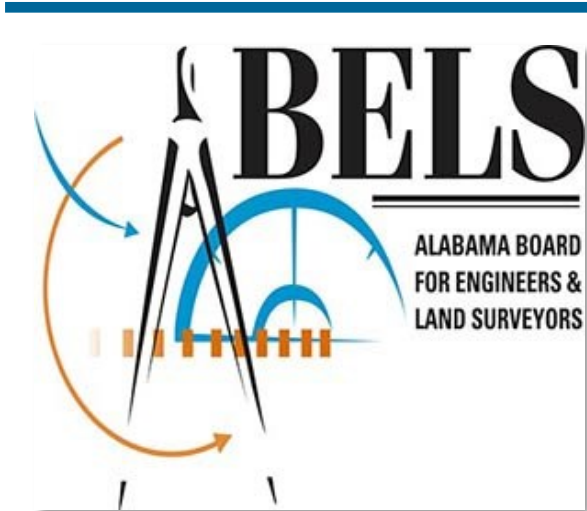
Notice of Sunset Hearing

FY2025-2026 Quarters 1-3 Credential Stats

PO Box 304451 | Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4451 | [www.bels.alabama.gov](http://www.bels.alabama.gov)

Front Cover:

BELS



## INFORMATION

BELS is comprised of nine members. Five professional engineers, two professional land surveyors, and two public members.

All members are vetted by specific nominating committees. The committees then submit a list of three names to the Governor who makes the appointment.

Board meetings are held every two months and are open to the public.

### Physical Address

100 N. Union Street, Ste 382  
Montgomery, AL 36104

### Mailing Address

PO Box 304451  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4451



## NEED A SPEAKER?

We cover the following:

PDH / CEU topics include:

- Enforcement Case Studies
- Ethics
- Law and Rules

If interested please email:  
[robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov)

# OUR MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by 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 discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

## OFFICE CALENDAR

Aug 13th	Board Meeting/Sunset Hearing	Sep 7th	Holiday / Office Closed
Oct 6th	Board Meeting	Oct 12th	Holiday / Office Closed

## DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have questions about how to fill out a new licensure application, register as a new firm, print your pocket card, reset your password or email address, change your name, renew a certificate of authorization, request a retired title, etc.

You can visit our website at [www.bels.alabama.gov](http://www.bels.alabama.gov) and click the “**How To**” icon. Under this section you will find step by step instructions that will address many of your questions and help you with the online process.

If you still have questions please call our office at 334-242-5568 and speak to a BELS Staff member. We will be glad to assist.

### SEND QUESTIONS ABOUT

- ◆ **PE & PLS Applications, Structural Roster Designation Requests, and the ALSS Exam** to Bonnie Kelly at [bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov)
- ◆ **Public Records Request, Renewals & Reinstatements** to Rick Huett at [rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov)
- ◆ **Certificates of Authorization** - Applications, Amendments, or Renewals, and **Engineer Intern and Land Surveyor Intern Applications** to Pam Faison at [pame-la.faison@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:pame-la.faison@bels.alabama.gov)
- ◆ **License Verification Requests.** The majority of states use the electronic verification system available on the NCEES website. Just login to your MYNCEES account and request the verification. If the jurisdiction requires a paper verification contact Rick Huett at [rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov).

# LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND SUNSET AUDITS

The Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts recently conducted a “Legal Compliance Audit, and a “Sunset Review” of the Board’s operations. The report will be provided to the Sunset Committee of the Legislature, **and a hearing will be held at 9 am on August 13, 2026, in Room # 200 of the State House.** The hearing can also be viewed virtually through the Legislature website: <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/>

Once the review and hearing have been completed, the committee will determine the recommendation it will make to continue or sunset the Board in the 2027 legislative session.

Typically if continued, the time period would be from one to four years.

**Previous Reports are available on the Board’s website on the “About Us” page.**



## ANNUAL, SUNSET & COMPLIANCE REPORTS

### Annual Reports

Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2024

Fiscal Year 2023

Fiscal Year 2022

Fiscal Year 2021

Fiscal Year 2020

Fiscal Year 2019

Fiscal Year 2018

### Sunset Reports

2018

2022

### Compliance Reports

2019

# FY 2025-2026 CREDENTIALS ISSUED QUARTERS 1, 2 AND 3

<b>Credential</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Engineer Intern</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Surveyor Intern</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Professional Engineer</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,061</b>
Initial	<b>65</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>169</b>
Comity	<b>334</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>892</b>
<b>Professional Land Surveyor</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>
Initial	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
Comity	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Engineering Company</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>Land Surveying Company</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>

# BOARD TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Board Technical Advisors (BTA) serve a vital role in the investigation of competency based complaints regarding professional engineers and land surveyors. Their expertise is a tremendous asset to the Board's investigative committee in determining if probable cause exists that a violation had occurred.

Understanding the amount of time necessary to provide an examination of documents submitted for review the Board limits the amount of reviews assigned to a BTA each year. If at all possible the BTA is also selected from a different geographical area of the State than where the violation occurred.

Also — Board Technical Advisors can earn up to ten (10) PDH's a year for their service to the Board in review of documents.

If interested, please contact Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert at 334-242-5089 or email: [robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov](mailto:robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov).

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

In accordance with the Administrative Code of the Board, Section 330-X-13-.02 Continuing professional competency activities which satisfy the professional development requirement shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Successfully completing or auditing courses college or university sponsored courses,
- (b) Successfully completing courses which are awarded continuing educational units (CEU),
- (c) Successfully completing tutorials, short courses, correspondence courses, televised courses, internet courses, or videotaped courses,
- (d) Attending seminars, in-house programs, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences.
- (e) Teaching, presenting, or instruction as described in (a) through (d) above,
- (f) Authoring published papers, articles, books, or accepted licensing examination items, and
- (g) Receiving a United States patent
- (h) Actively participating in professional or technical societies as defined in 330-X13.02(8)(f)
- (i) Serving the Board as a volunteer Technical Advisor as defined in 330-X-13-.02(8)(g)
- (j) Active participation in educational outreach activities pertaining to professional licensure or the surveying/engineering professions that involve K-12 or higher education students.

All activities as described in (a) through (j) above must be relevant to the practice of engineering or land surveying and may include technical, ethical, or managerial content. The Board does not preapprove or endorse any CPC activities. It is the responsibility of each licensee to assure that all PDH credits claimed meet the requirements as specified in 330-X-13.02.

# ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Our investigators are available to answer your questions concerning routine issues that occur and relate to compliance with the Code of Alabama and/or the Board's Administrative Code. Please feel free to send them an email or give them a call with your questions or concerns.

Their Contact Information:

Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5089

Special Investigator Bill Hamil: william.hamill@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5049

## FORMAL ACTIONS

**Structura Inc - Complaint 2026-14** The investigation determined **Structura Inc** failed to obtain the necessary Certificate of Authorization for engineering prior to providing engineering services for a project in Alabama. The firm stated that this situation resulted from an administrative oversight in identifying that the project had transitioned from proposal to active work. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay \$126 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

**Gen7 Holdings LLC - Complaint 2026-15** The investigation determined **Gen7 Holdings** failed to obtain the necessary Certificate of Authorization for engineering prior to providing engineering services for a project in Alabama. The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund, to pay \$103 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

## REQUIREMENT TO REPORT

The Board's Administrative Code, Rules of Professional Conduct (Code of Ethics) was amended December 10, 2024, and the revisions became effective February 14, 2025. It now includes the following:

### **Section 330-X-14-.06 Ethics (Canon V)**

The engineer or land surveyor shall contribute to the maintenance, integrity, independence and competency of the engineering or land surveying profession as follows:

- (h) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within **30 days** of a disciplinary action taken against them by other licensing boards.
- (i) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within **30 days** of a conviction, a plea of guilty, or nolo contendere to any felony crime, or misdemeanor directly related to the practice of engineering or land surveying.

# COMPLAINTS

The Code of Alabama Title 34 Chapter 11 charges the Board to investigate any complaint relating to a violation of the chapter and, if a violation is discovered, to proceed in accordance with the rules outlined. As of **June 30, 2026**, the Board has received thirty complaints and resolved twelve involving professional engineers, professional land surveyors and un-licensed individuals or firms offering engineering and/or land surveying services.

	FY 2025-2026	RECEIVED	RESOLVED
Professional Engineers		12	2
Unlicensed Engineering - Individual		6	5
Engineering Companies			
Unlicensed Engineering Company		6	3
Professional Land Surveyors		5	1
Unlicensed Surveying - Individual		1	1
Surveying Companies			
Unlicensed Surveying Company			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>

## COMPLAINT CLOSED ACTIONS

Method Complaint Closed	Refer	No Action	Informal Action (Not Discipline)	Formal Action (Discipline)
Professional Engineers				2
Unlicensed Engineering - Individual	1	2	2	
Engineering Companies				
Unlicensed				3
Professional Land Surveyors		1		
Unlicensed Surveying - Individual				1
Land Surveying Companies				
Unlicensed Surveying Company				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

# BOARD OPINION

## VENDOR DESIGN vs PRESCRIPTIVE MEMBER SELECTION

### QUESTION

Is it in keeping with Alabama law for an unlicensed individual to interpret construction documents for the purpose of determining the proper loads to be applied to the building's structure, and then to design the structural elements that comprise the roof or floor system, and then to prepare and issue drawings for use in the purchase of the materials, the layout of the structural elements, and the installation of bracing, blocking, web reinforcement, and member stabilization?

If this individual performs this work, is he or she practicing engineering without a license?

### FACTS, LAW, AND ANALYSIS

Section 34-11-1.(13) defines the PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING 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 that includes evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works, products, and systems.

The work described involves the interpretation of construction documents, engineering design of structural systems, and the preparation and issuance of drawings for construction purposes. Under Alabama law, the performance of tasks that involve determining loads, designing structural elements, and preparing official construction documents are recognized as elements of engineering practice.

The Alabama regulatory framework for practicing engineering—including the licensing requirements set forth in Code of Ala. 1975 and the accompanying Administrative Code—clearly reserves these activities for licensed professionals. This is done to ensure that public health, safety, and welfare are maintained through proper professional oversight.

As reflected in related Board rules and prior opinions on similar matters, an unlicensed individual carrying out such work would be deemed to be engaging in the practice of engineering without a certificate of licensure. This would be contrary to the statutory and regulatory provisions governing professional engineering in the state.

### CONCLUSION

It is not in keeping with Alabama law for an unlicensed individual to perform the described activities. All tasks that include the interpretation of construction documents for load determination, design of structural components, and the preparation and issuance of construction drawings must be carried out by an individual holding a valid engineering license.

Based on the context provided regarding the definition and scope of what constitutes the practice of engineering, performing the work described—interpreting construction documents for proper load determinations, designing structural elements, and preparing the associated drawings—would be considered engineering work. Therefore, if an unlicensed individual performs this work, they would be practicing engineering without a license, which is not permitted under Alabama law.