

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF LICENSURE

FOR

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is charged to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare and has as its goal to provide a complete and thorough licensure process for engineers and surveyors, ensuring that each is properly qualified to practice their chosen profession in the state of Mississippi.

At the present time there are 11,401 Professional Engineers and 901 Professional Surveyors licensed in the state of Mississippi. It's interesting to note that of the total 12,302 licensees, only 2,654 (21%) reside in Mississippi.

Also, at present there are 2,410 Engineering firms and 357 Surveying firms holding Certificates of Authority to practice in Mississippi. Of the total 2,767 firms, 466 (just 19%) reside in Mississippi.

The information contained in this report reflects the licensure and regulatory process accomplished during the past fiscal year.



HISTORY OF THE BOARD

The Board was established in 1928 by the Legislature. It became associated with the National Association of Engineering Examiners (later becoming the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors) in the same year. In 1962 the legislature charged the Board with additional authority for the licensing of Professional Surveyors. It was at this time the makeup of the joint board was established consisting of three Professional Surveyors and six Professional Engineers, all licensed in the State of Mississippi and from geographically different areas of the state.

Mr. O. B. Curtis joined the Board in 1943 and served in various administrative capacities until 1987. Mr. Curtis was Secretary of the Board from 1943-1976 and Adjunct Consultant to the Board from 1976-1987. In 1985, the Board hired its first Executive Director, Ms. Rosemary Brister, who assumed responsibility for day-to-day operations , with the help of additional staff.

The Board currently operates with a staff of four, which includes the Executive Director. The Board is advised and supported by an Assistant Attorney General. The Board has operated in several different state-provided facilities over the years. In June 2024, the Board office relocated to the Old Barefield Complex in downtown Jackson. (See image below.) The current Board address is 455 North Lamar Street, Suite 208, Jackson, MS.



Figure 1 - Current Board Office Location

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Carey Hardin, PE
President
Starkville, Mississippi
Post 3, 3rd District,
Northern

Joseph E. Lauderdale, PE
Jackson, Mississippi
Post 4, 1st District, Central

Blake Collins, PS
Brandon, Mississippi
Post 7, 1st District, Central

Sarah Tracy, PE
Madison, Mississippi
Post 1, 1st District, Central

Patrick Martino, PS
Biloxi, Mississippi
Post 8, 2nd District,
Southern

Clint Tidwell, PS
Ripley, Mississippi
Post 9, 3rd District,
Northern

Bill Mitchell, PE / PS
Gulfport, Mississippi
Post 2, 2nd District,
Southern

Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE
Starkville, Mississippi
Post 6, 3rd District,
Northern

Steven A. Twedt, PE
Biloxi, Mississippi
Post 5, 2nd District,
Southern



FUNCTIONS

Authority of the Board

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is established and operates pursuant to the authority of Miss. Code Ann. Sections 73-13-1, et seq..

The Board, through these statutes has the authority to:

- A. Establish standards of conduct and ethics;
- B. Institute proceedings in its own name;
- C. Promulgate rules restricting competitive bidding;
- D. Promulgate rules limiting or restricting advertising;
- E. Promulgate rules requiring a demonstration of continuing education;
- F. Adopt and promulgate reasonable bylaws and rules and regulations necessary or appropriate for the proper fulfillment of its duties under state laws pertaining thereto;
- G. Provide for the enforcement of and to enforce the laws of the State of Mississippi and, in particular, the provisions of this chapter, and the bylaws, rules and regulations of the board;
- H. Provide appropriate rules and regulations within the provisions of this chapter, a system for taking the disciplinary actions provided for in Section 73-13-37, including the imposition of fines as provided therein;
- I. Investigate, prosecute or initiate prosecution for violation of the laws of this state pertaining to the practices of engineering and surveying, or matters otherwise related thereto;
- J. Adopt rules setting forth qualifications and standards of practice for firms.

Appointment of Board Members

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors consists of six (6) licensed professional engineers, who are appointed by the Governor from eighteen (18) nominees recommended by the Mississippi Engineering Society, and three (3) licensed professional surveyors who are not licensed professional engineers, who are appointed by the Governor from nine (9) nominees recommended by the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors.

The board has two (2) engineer members and one (1) surveyor member from each of the three (3) State Supreme Court districts, and they currently serve four (4) year terms or until replaced. The Board's current executive team includes the following:



Board President
Carey Hardin, PE
Starkville, Mississippi
Post 3, 3rd District, Northern,
Appointment expires 07/01/2022



Board Vice President
Joseph E. Lauderdale, PE
Jackson, Mississippi
Post 4, 1st District, Central,
Appointment expires 07/01/2019



Board Secretary / Treasurer
Blake Collins, PS
Brandon, Mississippi
Post 7, 1st District, Central,
Appointment expires 07/01/2024

More information about the current Board membership can be found at the following link to our website: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-members>

Roster

Interested people can search the Board’s online Licensure and Renewal System (commonly referred to as LARS) for currently licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors. Information about firms having an active Certificate of Authority is also available online through LARS. LARS is updated continuously and accessible on the Board’s web site at www.pepls.state.ms.us. Printable Roasters are available for a fee.

Examinations

Presently, Mississippi is responsible for proctoring only one exam: the Mississippi Section exam for Land Surveying. Data regarding the 2024 administration of this exam is summarized in the following table. All other exams (i.e., Fundamentals of Engineering, Principles and Practice of Engineering, Fundamentals of Surveying, and the Principles and Practice of Surveying) are facilitated by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

Table 1: 2024 Mississippi Section Exam Data			
Exam	Examinees	#Passing	%Passing
Mississippi Section	30	21	70%

Licensures

The Board reviewed and acted upon applications at each of its six regular meetings during the 2024 fiscal year. The Board licensed the following number of professionals and firms:

Professional Engineers	-	731
Professional Surveyors	-	24
Engineering Firms	-	149
Surveying Firms	-	23

Enrollments

At each of the regular Board meetings in FY2024, the Board reviewed and acted upon applications for enrollment as a pre-professional Intern. An Intern meets some, but not all, of the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure. They are not allowed to practice as a professional but are held to the same professional conduct requirements. The Board enrolled the following number of individuals:

Engineer Interns	-	82
Surveyor Interns	-	4

Investigations

It is the responsibility of the Board to investigate allegations of misconduct and malfeasance by its registrants as well as unlicensed practice. During FY 2024, nine (9) new investigations were undertaken in addition to a small under continuing to be investigated from the previous year. The goal of the Board is to address allegations in a timely manner and, with the advice and counsel of the Board's Assistant Attorney General, act upon violations of the statute or regulations in a consistent and appropriate manner.

Disciplinary Adjudications

When an allegation results in disciplinary action, there are several actions that can be taken to protect the health, safety, and property of the citizens of Mississippi. Below is a summary of actions taken during fiscal year 2024:

Table 2: Summary of Disciplinary Actions Taken	
Disciplinary Action Taken	Number of Cases
Letter of Admonition or Education	1
Consent Orders with Fines	2
Resolved With No Legal Action Required	5
Still In Progress At Year's End	4

National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES)

The Board maintains annual membership with the NCEES. The Council and Board’s association provides several avenues for the Board to stay aware of all national trends in the professions while assuring the citizens of Mississippi are protected. The Council provides specialized consultation, opportunities to interact with other boards at the regional and national level, access to data on those seeking licensure in Mississippi, and a communications platform facilitating interaction of the Executive Directors of all of the boards.

As engineers and surveyors cross state boundaries, our association with NCEES provides uniform standards and practices which are used by the Board to assist with the licensure process of those seeking licensure in our state. This includes the national examinations which are proctored locally at a third-party vendor location but graded nationally. The Council also aids with law enforcement by providing information regarding licensure and disciplinary actions of licensees and registered firms in all states and US jurisdictions.

Several Board Members have been active members of NCEES committees and taskforces working on education, examinations, comity licensure, model law and regulations, financial issues, and disciplinary issues. Currently, our members serve in the following roles with NCEES and other state, local or national organizations engaged with the engineering or surveying professions. This expands the Board’s perspectives and provides opportunities to support programs to spark interest in STEM careers:

Table 3: Board Members Service to The Professions	
Board Member	National, State and Local Representation
Carey Hardin, PE	NCEES – Enforcement Committee Mississippi Engineering Society American Council of Engineering Companies
Joe Lauderdale, PE	Mississippi Engineering Society
Blake Collins, PS	NCEES – Southern Zone Awards Committee Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Patrick Martino, PS	Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

Table 3: Board Members Service to The Professions	
Board Member	National, State and Local Representation
Bill Mitchell, PE/PS	NCEES – Committee on Education Mississippi Engineering Society Engineers without Borders
Sarah Tracy, PE	NCEES – Awards Committee Mississippi Engineering Society (MES) MES Scholarship Committee Advisory Board for Madison Central High School’s Academy of Engineering and Biomedical Sciences
Steve Twedt, PE	NCEES – Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Committee Mississippi Engineering Society
Dennis D. Truax, PhD, PE	NCEES – Finance Committee, Taskforce on Engineering Model Law Mississippi Engineering Society American Society of Civil Engineers - 2022 President, Society Award Committee, Committee on Technical Advancement, Committee on Licensure, Committee on Professional Conduct, MS Section 2024 Infrastructure Report Card Committee ABET, Inc. - Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering Academic Program Accreditation Evaluator
Clint Tidwell, PS	Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

SUMMARY OF FEE TRANSACTIONS

The vast majority of revenues are received in connection renewal of licenses and certificates of authority. Application for licensure, enrollment, and certificates of authority add to those revenues. Fines, penalties, and interest make up the rest.

Operation of the Board activities is maintained within the appropriation legislatively approved for the Board. Salaries and fringe benefits for the four staff represent the largest expenditure. Support services required, in part, due to the limited number of staff makes up the next largest disbursement of funds.

The following tabulation summarizes the revenues and expenses incurred by the Board during Fiscal Year 2024.

Table 4: Summary Of Receipts and Expenses For The Board for Fiscal Year 2024	
TOTAL REVENUES	
Regulatory Fees, Fines, and Interest	\$ 1,088,119
SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATION	
Lump Sum Appropriation Total	\$556,525
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$263,652
Travel and Subsistence	\$20,597
Contractual Services	\$113,799
Commodities	\$17,061
<i>Capital Outlay:</i>	
Other than Equipment	\$0
Equipment	\$7,245
Subsidies, Loans and Grants	\$0
Total Disbursements	\$422,354

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF HINDS


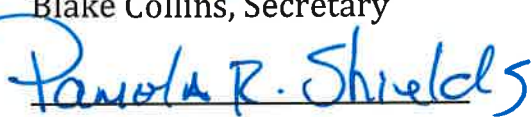
I, Carey Hardin, President of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, do hereby certify that the attached report is a correct statement of transactions of the Board for the period covered by the report.


Carey Hardin, President

Notary Public


My Commission Expires: March 20, 2026

I, Blake Collins, Secretary of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, do hereby certify that the attached report is a correct statement of the transactions of the Board for the period covered by the report.


Blake Collins, Secretary

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: March 20, 2026