

BOA NEWSLINE

A newsletter brought to you by the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects

VOL. 24 ISSUE 1

OUR 93RD YEAR

MAY 2024

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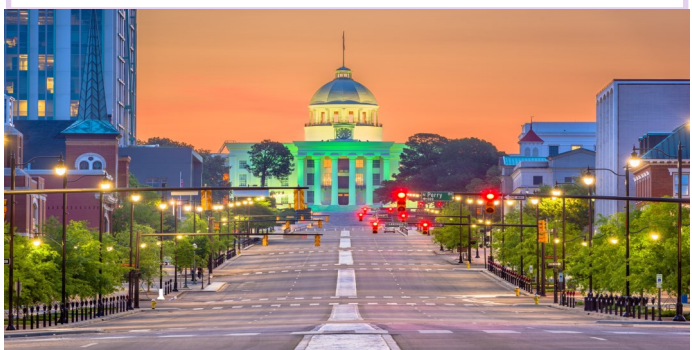
Governor Kay Ivey Enacts BOA Housekeeping Legislation

Housekeeping Legislation for the Board for Registration of Architects was presented in the 2024 Legislative Session (the last update was in 2011). Rep. Craig Lipscomb Sponsored HB 235 and Sen. Wes Kitchens presented the bill in the Senate. As expected, the process was difficult, but resulted in both Chambers voting unanimously for its passage. Governor Ivey signed the bill into law on May 15, 2024. [Act #2024-379](#) will become effective on October 1, 2024.

In summary, this legislation updates grammar/style and provides standard regulatory practices in keeping with most Boards in Alabama. This will specifically affect licensees by providing for the following:

- For the purpose of attracting Architects to the State of Alabama, The Board has the authority to waive renewal fees (if finances allow) for newly licensed Architects who reside in-state.
- Emeritus Architects will no longer be required to renew annually.
- Certificates of Authorization will now have a process to reinstate a lapsed license.

The BOA and AIA worked in true partnership to achieve this goal. Many thanks are due to Members who contacted their Senators requesting the bill be placed on the Special Order Calendar. Representatives Craig Lipscomb (Etowah, St. Clair), Kerry “Bubba” Underwood (Colbert, Lauderdale), Parker Moore (Limestone, Madison, Morgan); and Senators Wes Kitchens (Blount, Madison, Marshall), Chris Elliott (Baldwin), Josh Carnley (Coffee, Covington, Dale), Sam Givhan (Madison), and Jabo Waggoner (Jefferson, Shelby) all deserve a standing ovation.



State Fire Marshal Code Bureau

Scott F. Pilgrees, *State Fire Marshal*



Since 1909 when state law established the SFMO the code responsibilities have been handled by our Deputy State Fire Marshals around the state who also handle fire investigations. In the last 10 years the number of manhours that the SFMO has had to apply to code issues have dramatically increased due to the increasing number of requests and complaints.

At the start of fiscal year 2023 the SFM Code Bureau was established. Our goal with the Code Bureau is to staff it with skilled building/fire code professionals so that the SFMO can better address the needs of our citizens, design professionals and public safety partners. As of this newsletter the Code Bureau has a staff of 4, two based at the main office and two in the field.

The greatest concern that I have in our state exists in the unincorporated areas as the majority of Alabama's 67 counties do not have anyone employed as a code official looking at any development in these areas. Therefore, commercial buildings for various uses are being constructed, remodeled, repurposed, etc. and are not in compliance with state law or the building and fire codes. Our state is at significant risk of having a catastrophic loss of life and property as a result.

As your State Fire Marshal, I am asking that if you become aware of or become involved with commercial development in our state, specifically in the unincorporated areas, small towns/cities where there isn't a local code authority, please notify this office or have someone associated with the development contact this office. In doing so we can conduct an inspection if needed or provide the necessary information/guidance to the parties involved to ensure compliance with state law and the building/fire codes for the developments intended use.

Scott F. Pilgrees

ALDOI Criminal Investigations Division

Director / State Fire Marshal

Phone: 334.241.4166

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Southern Living

How An Auburn University Student Program Is Revitalizing Rural Alabama

Auburn Rural Studio student architecture program has been making a difference for 30 years.

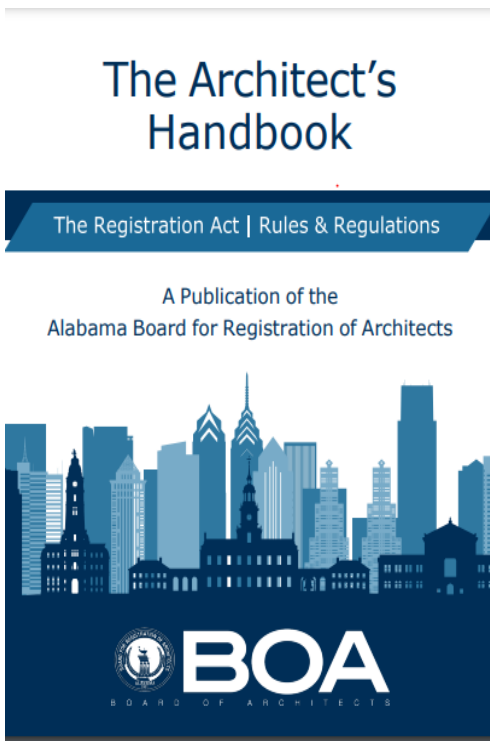
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What has the BOA Website Done For Me Lately?

ALL NEW:

- [Publications](#)
- [Online Applications](#)
- [Licensing Portal](#)
- [Search Roster](#) - now searchable by area as well as name and license number
- [FAQ's](#) - separated for Licensees, COA's, Applicants, Consumers, and Compliance
- And Regular Updates to [News](#) and [Board Meeting Calendar](#)



HANDBOOK FOR ALABAMA
BUILDING OFFICIALS



Paula Pilgreen, *Executive Director*

Benefits to the Public:

- Real time website updates providing the most current licensee information to the public.

Benefits to Applicants:

- Online applications eliminating unnecessary red tape (signed pictures, notarization, mailing, etc.);
- NCARB's Licensing System dovetails with NCARB Records increasing efficiency;
- Reduction in turn-around time for application reviews.

Benefits to Licensees:

- Capability to access and update your official license record 24/7;
- Capability to assign a Point of Contact (POC) to assist in the administration of your license.
- Expedited CE Audits
- AIA Transcript Upload
- CE Tracking Tools
- Sharp Reduction in CE Disciplinary – having a tool expediting the CE Audit process allows the Board to audit prior to license renewal. If CE is not complete, the license is not renewed. This essentially eliminates CE disciplinary actions (out of the last 60 violations, 27 have been CE non-compliance). An efficient audit review conducted pre-renewal should aid licensees in CE compliance moving forward.

It's part of a professional's role to make what we do look easy and to provide steady (even calm) leadership. I feel that is mostly attainable, until... you ask me for a password! You may then observe a panicked expression accompanied by a slight sweat and that's when chaos ensues in the hunt for the highly secured black book with, what feels like hundreds of logins and passwords. I confess this unfortunate personal trait to you now because I want to especially **thank our licensees** for their patience in setting up new logins to renew this year with the NCARB Licensing System. Please know I absolutely felt your pain. Technology upgrades can be particularly stressful (at least for me). So, thank you for creating your account and Point of Contact (POC) in the Licensing Portal. The good news is you will not have to go through setting logins up again. The unavoidable bad news is you will need to add another password to your own login tracking method. It's ridiculous – I know, but necessary in today's world. Ultimately, we are hopeful the benefits of the new licensing system developed by NCARB will become more apparent and the growing pains of its launch will fade. Thank you also for your feedback. We'll use it to keep improving the experience.

BOA partnered with CE Broker in 2023 to provide CE Audit software. For this year's license renewals, those selected for random CE Audit were required to submit their CE documentation through CE Broker prior to license renewal.

A free basic account is provided for this with licensees having an option to upgrade to a paid account with CE Broker. At the outset, the Board anticipated this project would probably be a multiple year process for full implementation. Year one benefits (see left) exceeded messaging concerns. BOA and CE Broker will be working on messaging together moving forward.

In the end, changes are not implemented out of masochism, but for a plan and purpose to increase service and efficiency for the benefit of those we serve. We continue to strive towards refining processes where we can make use of smart technology while aiming not to lose a personal connection with our licensees and applicants. Thank you for growing with us.



Proof: Architects & Engineers Can Get Along



Board of Engineers & Land Surveyors (BELS) & Board of Architects (BOA) Annual Luncheon held at the BELS office.

From Left: Nathan Johnson, BELS Board Member; Tara Hetzel, BOA Deputy AG; Daniel Bennett, BOA Past Chair; John Averrett, BELS Board Member; Emily Coe, BOA Vice Chair; Michael Chapman, BOA Past Chair; Don Vaughn, BELS Board Member; James Pegues, BELS Board Member; Randy Whorton, BELS Board Member; Nolanda Hatcher, BOA Chair; Jimmy Seay, BOA Board Member; Elaine Walton, BELS Board Member; Sted McCollough, BOA Board Member; and Nan Baldwin, BELS Board Member.

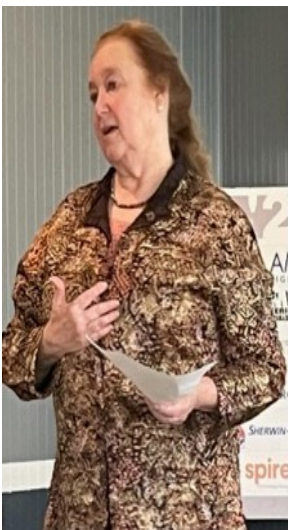


BELS & BOA Luncheon From Left:

Rick Huett
BELS Executive Director

Paula Pilgreen
BOA Executive Director.

AIA Chapter Tour



Mobile AIA. Beatriz Jordan, President of AIA Mobile Chapter presents at AIA Mobile CEU Event.

Newly Licensed Architects honored at AIA Birmingham. From Left: Lee Bryant, Emily Lopez, Rhea Williams, Executive Director AIA Birmingham, and Christian Smoke.



Montgomery AIA. From Left: Travis Krimmell, President of AIA Montgomery Chapter, and Kaylee Cofer President Elect of AIA Montgomery Chapter at BOA Booth for AIA Montgomery CE Event.

Congratulations to New ARE Licensees

Joshua Adams

John P. Alexander

Joshua Banks

Diondra Bingham

Kelsey Brigati

Richard L. Bryant, III

Angelica Carol

Cathleen Chambers

Hannah Creech

Meagan E. Edwards

Celia Gannaway

Alexander Harnady

Cassandra Kellogg

Natasha Liston-Beck

Emily Lopez

Samuel A. Matthews

Melissa N. Nolte

John B. Plaster

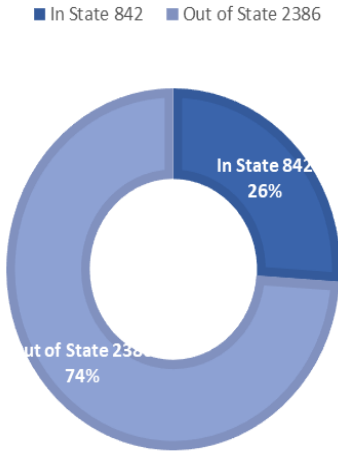
Richard D. Shaddix

Christian Smoke

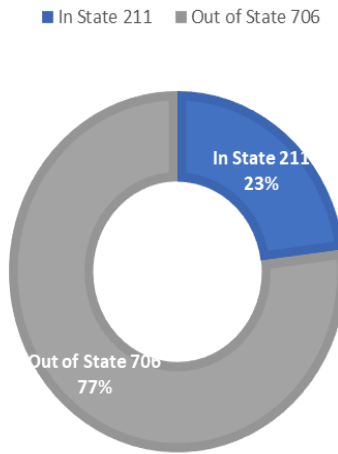
ARE 5.0 Pass/Fail Rates	Pass	Fail
	133	94
Project Planning & Design	20	20
Programming & Analysis	24	10
Project Development & Documentation	19	21
Project Management	22	14
Practice Management	24	19
Construction & Evaluation	24	10

BOA By The Numbers

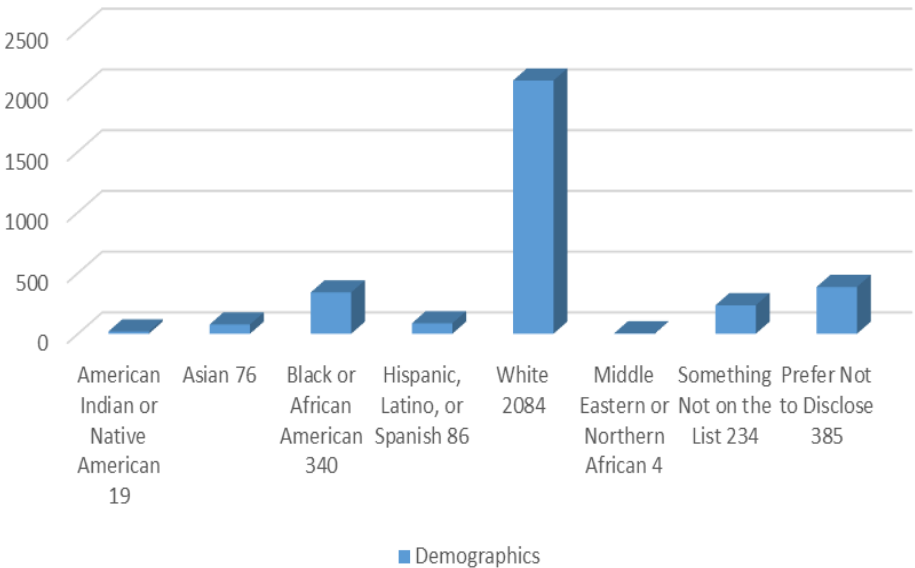
REGISTRANTS



COAS



Demographics



Disciplinary Action



Penalties for violations of the Board of Architects License Law and Rules vary depending upon the particular facts and circumstances present in each case. Disciplinary Actions are also posted [here](#) and reported to NCARB upon conclusion of the case.

Robert Jeffrey Powell

Date: 4/17/24

Violation: 34-2-34 (3) (d) - Non-disclosure of prior disciplinary action (per reciprocity).

Disposition: Fined \$750

Quotable Quote

“For me, architecture is not just creating a space to protect people but to make them dream as well.”

Mario Botta

BOA Office Has Moved

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Suite 4010
Montgomery, AL 36104



ALABAMA BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS

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BOA Newline is an official publication of the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects. This publication is intended for a wide audience to alert licensees to matters of possible procedural, legal, legislative, and regulatory interest. It should not be relied upon, nor is it intended to provide legal, insurance, or accounting advice. Licensees should consult their lawyers, insurance agents, and accountants before taking any action in response to this newsletter, as the opinions expressed herein may be completely altered by the licensee's actual facts.

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