

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors
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**Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors
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Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)*

Date of Final Board Approval: 5/21/2025

Board Member

Board Seat

Paul Baril (March 2024-2028)

Architect

John Barry (March 2024-2028)

Mining Engineer

Jeffrey Garness (March 2020-2028)

Engineer other than those listed

Edward Leonetti (March 2021-2029)

Landscape Architect

Colin Maynard (March 2024-2028)

Civil Engineer

Bradford Rinckey (March 2024-2028)

Land Surveyor

Sterling Strait (March 2022-2026)

Civil Engineer

Samson Shepherd (March 2025-2029)

Mechanical Engineer

Vacant*

Land Surveyor

Vacant*

Architect

Vacant*

Public Member

Previous Board members during FY2025

Elizabeth Beckett Johnston (March 2017-2025)

Electrical Engineer

Jake Maxwell (March 2021-2025)

Land Surveyor

Randall Rozier (March 2021-2025)

Architect

Brent Cole (March 2022-December 2024)

Public Member

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Accomplishments

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) underwent its sunset review during FY2025. The Legislative Audit Committee had no findings and recommended the legislature extend the board's termination date eight years to June 30, 2033. The full audit report can be found at

<https://legaudit.akleg.gov/wp-content/docs/audits/sunset/ACN%2008-20141-24%20Sunset%20Review%20of%20Architects,%20Engineers,%20and%20Land%20Surveyors.pdf>

AELS during its November board meeting approved recommending other statute changes to be added to its sunset bill. Those changes included changing the board make-up by adding a mechanical engineer seat and allowing other subsurface engineers to sit in the mining seat, putting the Executive Administrator salary in statute, excluding natural gas pipelines from the industrial exemption, and adding an exemption for Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation certified installers of on-site wastewater systems. Senator Claman agreed to sponsor AELS's sunset bill by including it in SB54 which added Registered Interior Designers to the AELS board in a title act with permitting privileges. The bill passed both bodies of the legislature and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor as of the May 21-22, 2025, AELS board meeting.

Also, during FY 2025, the board held its quarterly meetings in August, November, February and May. It reviewed and registered 323 applicants for licensure as well as issued 52 Certificate of Authorizations to firms. Twelve investigative cases were opened in FY2025, seven cases were closed with no action, four advisement letters were sent, and three license actions were signed.

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Activities

AELS has the following committees that meet between board meetings to work on board business as shown:

Outreach Committee	Planned outreach event with ASPLS to discuss the dropping numbers of licensed land surveyors Designed and compiled the 2025 AELS Newsletter Discussing how to educate the public on not practicing or giving the impression of practice (prohibition of practice) without a license.
Education Committee	Working on the core competencies for the Cold Regions Design Course Reviewing ABET equivalent degrees
Investigative Advisory Committee	Working on a regulation project to clarify actions that need to be investigated
Legislative Liaison Committee	Working on a regulation project to address the lapsed/expired license status Proposed AELS statute changes to include with the sunset bill Monitoring SB54
Planning & Implementation Committee	Developing the AELS Strategy Plan for 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

In addition to the standing committees, the AELS Board has the following working groups/special committees to address the issues below:

ADEC Working Group	Working to bring agreement between AELS's and ADEC's regulations
SE Working Group	Board approved the proposed regulation change language to 12AAC 36.990(a)(44)(F) proposed by the working group. The regulation project is waiting to be public noticed.
Land Surveyor Working Group	Considering a pathway to licensure for applicants with no degree
Responsible Charge Working Group	Discussing the use of the term "responsible charge" in regulations and statute
Special Committee – Decoupling	Considering revisions to the topic of decoupling and how the board can improve access to testing for applicants.
Special Committee- FE Waiver	Working on regulation project to amend 12 AAC 36.090 to add additional options for waiver of Fundamentals of Engineering examination

During its August board meeting, the AELS Board met with members of the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors to discuss the decreasing numbers of registered land surveyors. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Land Surveyor Working Group which was tasked with reviewing the education requirements and consider a pathway to licensure for applicants with no degree.

Individual board members attended and engaged in the national organization committees and state chapters of national associations. At least one representative from the AELS Board attended the annual meetings and regional conferences for engineers, architects and land surveyors. These conferences make the Board aware of the national trends that are affecting each profession.

A delegate from the AELS Board attended all hearings on SB54. SB54 includes both the AELS sunset bill and a title act with permitting privileges for registered interior designers. The board voted to support this bill during its February 12-13th, 2024, meeting.

Regulation projects that are currently waiting for public notice are addressing the term "responsible charge" and "responsible charge experience," adding the discipline of architectural engineering, as well as clarifying document retention, changing the date for the current AELS bylaws, and changing the requirements for bridges to be considered significant structures. Administrative Order 358 was issued on May 9, 2025 and restricts regulation projects from being public noticed. No regulation projects will be public noticed until the order is lifted.

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Needs

Administrative Order 358 also restricts both in state and out of state travel. Until the order is lifted, all board meetings will be virtual and no board members or staff will attend national conferences in person.

Due to having an 11 person board, board meetings are much more efficient when the board can meet in person. The board continues to request that the division allow the board to meet in different parts of the state in order to better connect with all its registrants state-wide.

To keep current on the national trends for the professions regulated by the AELS Board, it is imperative that board members and staff travel to and attend the following national organizations' conferences:

NCEES	Annual Business Meeting Western Zones	August 19-22, 2026 April 30-May 2, 2026	Henderson, NV Bend, OR	Up to 3 board members and Executive Administrator
NCARB	Annual Business Meeting Regional Summit	June 25-27, 2026 March 20-21, 2026	Minneapolis, MN Oklahoma City, OK	Up to 2 board members and Executive Administrator
CLARB	Annual Business Meeting	Sept. 18-20, 2025	Lexington, KY	1 board member and Executive Administrator

In addition to the conferences, some board members are on committees for the national organizations and will need to travel for their service on the committees. The AELS Board also requests travel dollars in the event the investigator needs to travel for site visits and for a board member to travel for proctoring the AKLS.

The board has the following three open seats which are in need of being filled: the Architect seat, the Land Surveyor seat, and the Public Member seat. When SB 54 is signed, two additional seats will be added to the board.