

AELS ALASKA

Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors

2023 Newsletter



Message from the Chair

The AELS Board is a working board - we are actively serving the needs of our current registrants and new license applicants. Our regular meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August, and November, but we also have committee work that keeps everyone busy year-round. Some current examples are: The Education Committee is reviewing Continuing Education requirements with the goal of streamlining and simplifying such requirements. The Outreach Committee is organizing events and improving communication with our registrants (this newsletter is one example). The Legislative Liaison Committee is reviewing applicable statutes to determine if



Catherine Fritz AIA
AELS Board Chair

COORDINATING ALASKA: HB148 MODERNIZATION

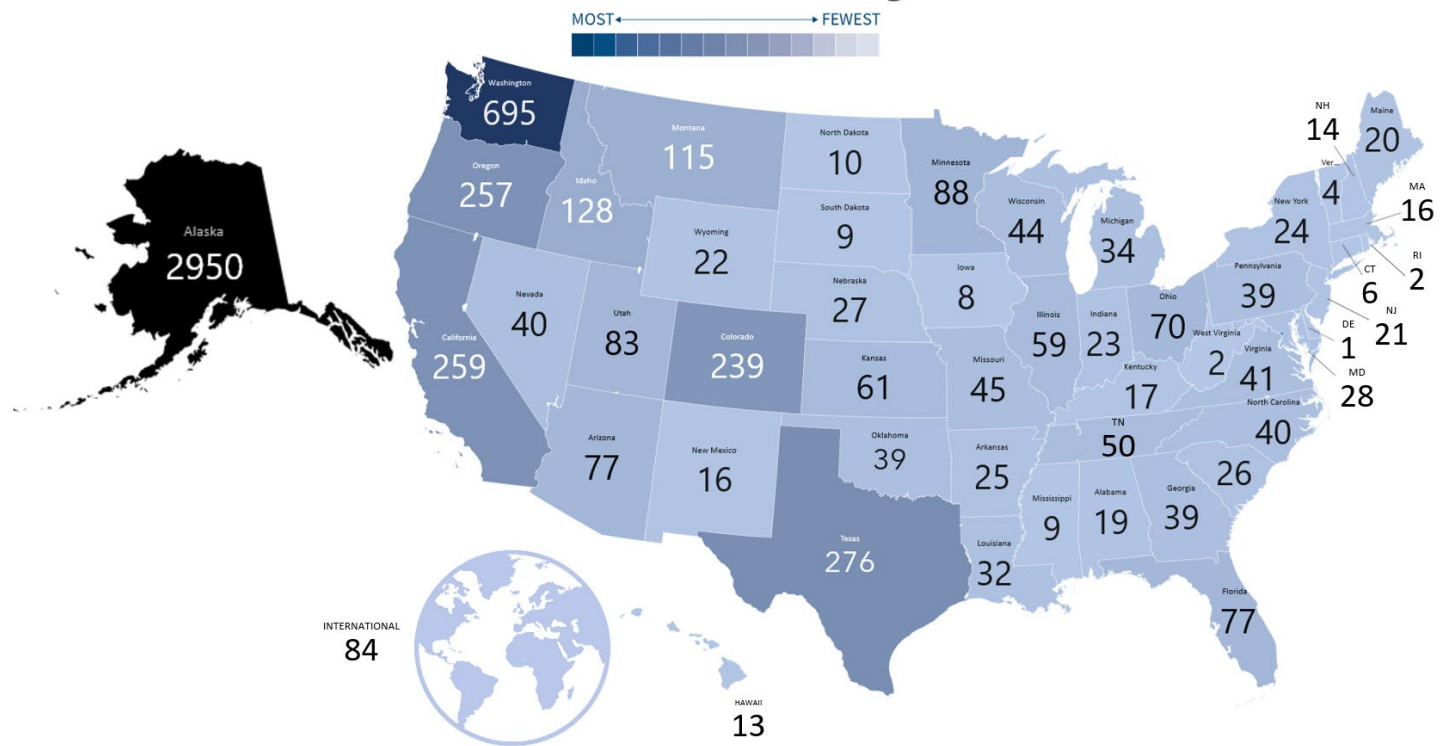
House Bill 148 "Alaska Coordinate System of 2022." Is an amendment to Alaska Statute 38.20. The modernized coordinate system was developed by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and is based off satellite and gravity measurements which will provide more accurate and refined coordinates within Alaska. Although this coordinate is signed into law, the NGS has not fully released the parameters for the system but plans to have it completed in 2024 or 2025. Until the new system has been fully developed and implemented, there is no update for registrants.

an update is needed, and they are monitoring activity related to possible proposed interior design regulation.

As a multi-discipline board, we represent a broad array of practices and participate in national organizations that provide essential support. NCEES, NCARB, and CLARB write and administer the exams that Alaska utilizes (the Land Surveyor Exam is administered directly by the state of Alaska). They also maintain applicants' employment records and track accredited university programs. Alaska saves significant costs by relying on these member-board non-profit organizations to provide detailed information about each application for initial licensure or for comity. They also help ensure that Alaska's licensing of design professionals is consistent with national standards and other jurisdictions, whenever appropriate.

Each AELS Board meeting allows at least one opportunity for public testimony, and meetings are open to the public for listening except during Executive Session. Agendas are posted to the AELS website approximately two weeks before each meeting and include a zoom link to join. Note that late additions to the agenda are sometimes added that may not be on the publicly noticed version - these are reviewed at the start of the meeting and must be accepted by the Board to be included in the agenda. It is always a good idea to check in at the start of the meeting to confirm the schedule of items you may be interested in listening to and/or commenting on. You can always reach out to the Board's Executive Administrator, Sara Neal, at sara.neal@alaska.gov if you have questions or concerns about anything related to the statutes and regulations that govern your profession.

Active Licenses by State

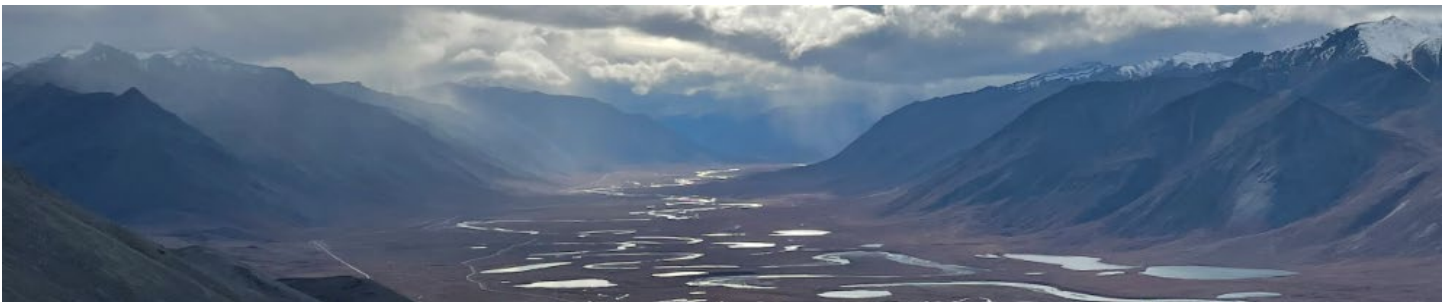


Cold Regions Design Is the new Arctic Engineering

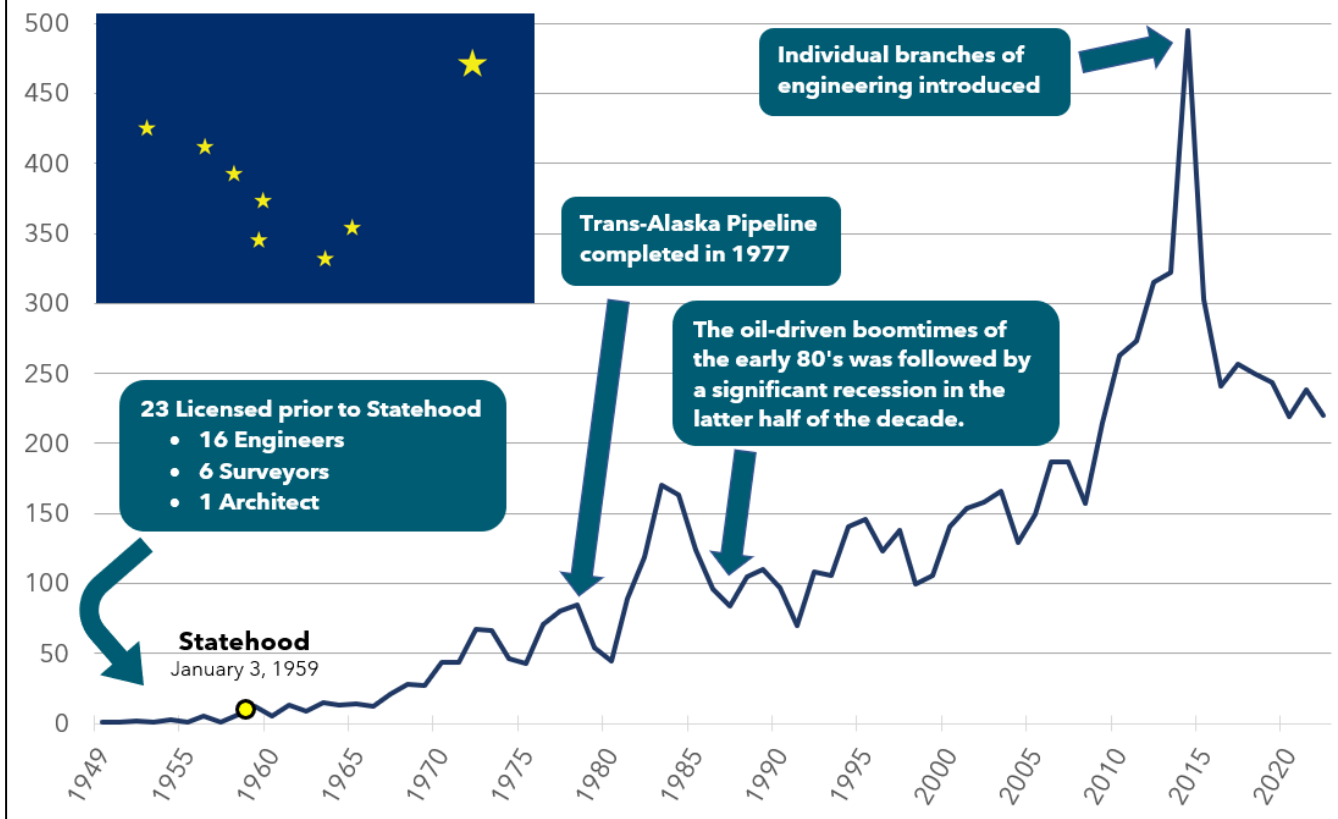
Language relating to "Arctic Engineering Course" is being revised to "Cold Regions Design Course".

The updated terminology better relates to the intent and content of the courses offered and importance to practice in Alaska. Upon review, not all of Alaska is Arctic and not all licensed individuals are engineers. The terminology will change throughout AELS documentation with the most notable change in 12 AAC 36.110. The change in terminology does not affect the coursework or programs that are currently offered to satisfy the requirements for regulations."

"The AELS Board continually clarifies and updates our regulations and guidance manuals. During this process we take public comment and current professional trends under advisement.



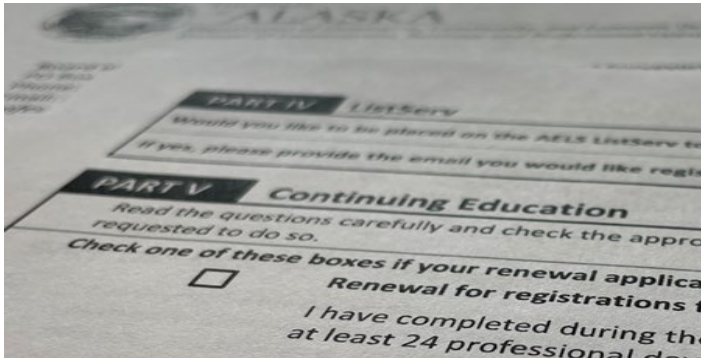
Professional Licenses Issued in Alaska by Year



Tips from the Board

Continuing Education: Don't Check That Box!

The AELS Board wants to thank all of you who diligently complete and document your continuing education. Your dedication to lifelong learning improves your effectiveness and keeps you engaged in technological improvement. You are a credit to the profession, and we are grateful for your attentiveness.



Now, it has come to our attention that not every registrant is being completely honest in reporting their continuing education when renewing their license. And by 'come to our attention', we mean that a non-trivial portion of continuing education audits are being failed.

Which brings us to the check box. When renewing your license, you have an option to check a box stating that you have completed your 24 PDHs as required.

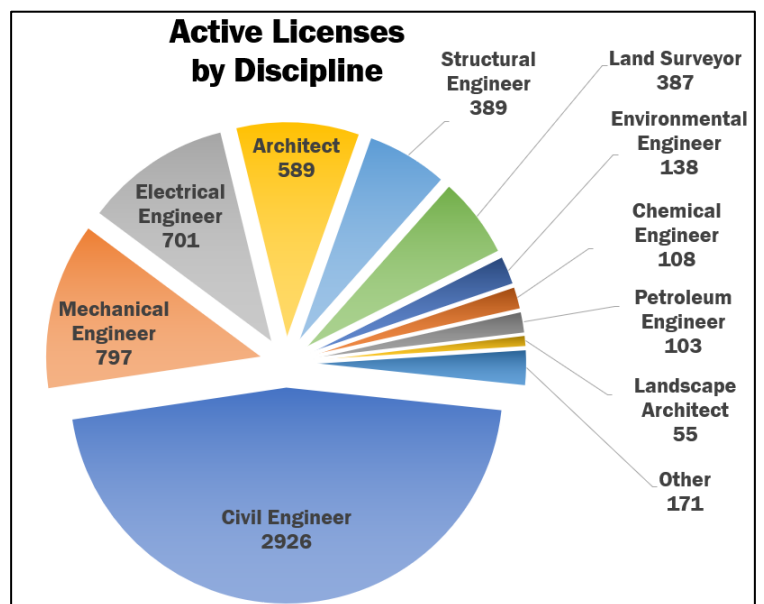
You then sign the application agreeing that everything on the application is true and correct and that any falsifications could lead to disciplinary action.

If you have not completed your 24 PDHs, please, DON'T CHECK THAT BOX!

This Board enjoys supporting the design community. This Board delights in seeing the next generation earn their professional licenses. This Board does not enjoy chastening individuals who misrepresented their continuing education on their renewal applications.

Many individuals have good reasons as to why there were unable to obtain their PDHs during the renewal period. This is fine. In fact, there is a separate check box on the renewal application specifically for this case allowing you to explain your situation and request an extension or exemption. Our Board has historically been very understanding with individuals who have taken the time to make their case. However, the time to ask for consideration is when you first apply for renewal and not when you run afoul of an audit.

This board requests that you do not put your professional license at risk and that if you are short on continuing education when you renew, **DON'T CHECK THAT BOX.**



Getting Involved with the Board: How to make board business YOUR business

The Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors exists to protect the public interest through regulation of the professions in AS 08.48. While you may only think about the board when it's time to renew your license, there are many ways to engage with the board—and many reasons why you might want to do so:

Why should I engage with board business?

The board meets at least quarterly to discuss matters relating to practice, licensure, and enforcement of its laws. Every topic the board considers relates to professional practice, including continuing education, sealing, alignment with national standards, and responsible charge, to name a few.

When these topics arise, the board deliberates and, often, must propose a regulations project to ultimately codify its intended changes. Feedback from licensees has a profound effect on the outcome of these projects, which ultimately affects the daily professional work of licensees.

How can I engage in board business?

The simplest way to begin is by listening in to a board meeting or a meeting of a committee of the board. These are all published on the board's [web page](#) and in the state's [Online Public Notice System](#).

If you are seeking to serve on a deeper level, board membership is an exciting responsibility. Members are appointed by the governor and serve up to two four-year terms. The AELS board will have five vacant seats in early 2024. Now is an excellent time to ask whether you are being called to service in this way. Board members must be fair and impartial, willing to dig deep into the details and thoughtfully explore all angles of an issue.

Regulatory boards differ vastly from non-profit or corporate boards, so please reach out if you're interested in learning more. When you are ready to apply, the governor's [Office of Boards and Commissions](#) office can assist. We'd love to welcome you to the toughest job you'll ever love.

Sara Chambers, DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor



AELS Board Information

Upcoming Board Meeting Schedule

February 8 - 9 in Juneau

May 10 - 11 in Anchorage

August 23 - 24 in Fairbanks

Upcoming Exam Dates

NCEES SE Exam:

April 13 - 14

October 26 - 27

AKLS Exam

April 14 and October 20

Upcoming Application Deadlines

January 9

April 10

July 24

Registration applications must be received 30 days before AELS Board meeting or processing will be delayed until the next meeting.

Contact Info

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