

Report on the

# Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators

Montgomery, Alabama



## Department of Examiners of Public Accounts

401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280  
P.O. Box 302251  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2251  
Website: [www.examiners.alabama.gov](http://www.examiners.alabama.gov)

*Rachel Laurie Riddle, Chief Examiner*





Rachel Laurie Riddle  
Chief Examiner

State of Alabama  
Department of  
**Examiners of Public Accounts**

P.O. Box 302251, Montgomery, AL 36130-2251  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4325  
Telephone (334) 242-9200  
FAX (334) 242-1775

August 19, 2020

Representative Howard Sanderford  
Chairman, Sunset Committee  
Alabama State House  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Representative Sanderford,

This report was prepared to provide information for use by the Sunset Committee in conducting its review and evaluation of the operations of the Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators in accordance with the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-20-9.

The report contains unaudited information obtained from the management, staff, and records of the Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators, in addition to information obtained from other sources.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle  
Chief Examiner

**Examiner**

Troy A. Eastman



## **CONTENTS**

<b>PROFILE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Purpose/Authority .....	1
Characteristics .....	1
Operations .....	2
Financial .....	3
Licensee Information .....	4
<b>SIGNIFICANT ISSUES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PERSONNEL.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>COMPLAINT HANDLING .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REGULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FINANCIAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Schedule of Fees .....	9
Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances .....	10
Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements (Chart) .....	11
<b>QUESTIONNAIRES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Board Member Questionnaire .....	13
Licensee Questionnaire .....	16
Complainant Questionnaire.....	20
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>21</b>
Applicable Statutes.....	21
Professional Services by Vendor .....	29
Board Members .....	30
Board’s Response to Significant Issues .....	32



## **PROFILE**

### **Purpose/Authority**

The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators was created by Act No. 675, Acts of Alabama 1998 to license and regulate the practice of interpreting and transliterating on behalf of consumers who are hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled. The Board licenses and permits providers of interpreting and transliterating services and establishes and monitors interpreting and transliterating standards in Alabama. Current statutory authority for the Board is found in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-16-1 through 34-16-16.

There was no legislative activity since the last Sunset Review.

<b><u>Characteristics</u></b>	
<b>Members and Selection.</b>	<p>Nine members appointed by the Governor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four interpreter or transliterator members appointed from a list of three nominations for each position submitted by Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ALRID).</li><li>• Three deaf or hard of hearing members appointed from a list of three nominations for each position submitted by the Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD).</li><li>• Two at-large members</li></ul> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4</p>
<b>Term</b>	<p>Four-year staggered terms.</p> <p>No more than two consecutive terms of four years expiring December 31.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 34-16-4</p>

<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four interpreter and transliterator members must be nationally certified at the professional level, one of whom must work in an educational setting</li> <li>• Three deaf or hard of hearing members who are knowledgeable in professional interpreting</li> <li>• Two members at-large who are interested in and experienced with issues affecting the deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreting communities</li> <li>• United States citizens or legally present</li> <li>• Resident of Alabama</li> </ul> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-16-4</i></p>
<b>Consumer Representation</b>	<p>Two consumer members required by statute. Two consumer members serving.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-16-4</i></p>
<b>Racial Representation</b>	<p>No specific statutory requirement. No minority members serving.</p>
<b>Other Representation</b>	<p>To the extent possible, shall select those persons whose appointments ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-16-4</i></p>
<b>Compensation</b>	<p>Board members receive no compensation in the discharge of official duties. Each member receives the same per diem and travel allowance as paid by law to state employees and incidental and clerical expenses.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975, Section 34-16-4</i></p>
<b><u>Operations</u></b>	
<b>Administrator</b>	<p>The Board contracts with Warren &amp; Company, Inc. for management services, administrative services, and office space. Keith Warren, president of Warren &amp; Company serves as the Board’s executive director. The current annual contracted amount is \$18,900.</p>

<b>Location</b>	2777 Zelda Road Montgomery, AL 36106 Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 – 4:30
<b>Employees</b>	The Board does not have employees.
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Bill Garrett, Assistant Attorney General, employee of the Attorney General's office.
<b>Subpoena Power</b>	None, except as provided by the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act, <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 41-22-12 for hearings and contested cases.
<b>Internet Presence</b>	<a href="http://www.albit.alabama.gov">www.albit.alabama.gov</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Member and staff information</li> <li>• Meeting calendar</li> <li>• Statute and Administrative Rules</li> <li>• Licensee forms and information</li> <li>• Credential types</li> <li>• Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Licensee search</li> </ul>
<b>Attended Board Member Training</b>	Nine Board members Executive Director Ten Warren & Co. employees
<b><u>Financial</u></b>	
<b>Source of Funds</b>	Licensure fees and penalties.  <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9
<b>State Treasury</b>	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 0959.  <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9
<b>Required Distributions</b>	No statutory requirement.
<b>Unused Funds</b>	The Board may retain sums not to exceed \$250,000. Funds in excess of \$250,000 shall be available to provide for education and training of interpreters and transliterators in post-secondary programs.  <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 34-16-9

<u><b>Licensee Information</b></u>									
<b>Licensees</b>	<p>As of February 10, 2020</p> <table> <tr> <td>Licensed Interpreter/Transliterators</td> <td>155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Permitted Interpreter/Transliterators</td> <td>132</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Educational Interpreter</td> <td><u>8</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Licensees</b></td> <td><b>295</b></td> </tr> </table>	Licensed Interpreter/Transliterators	155	Permitted Interpreter/Transliterators	132	Educational Interpreter	<u>8</u>	<b>Total Licensees</b>	<b>295</b>
Licensed Interpreter/Transliterators	155								
Permitted Interpreter/Transliterators	132								
Educational Interpreter	<u>8</u>								
<b>Total Licensees</b>	<b>295</b>								
<b>Licensee Demographics</b>	<p>Data not collected by the Board.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Board Administrator</p>								
<b>Licensure Qualifications</b>	<p><u><b>Licensure</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification in a nationally recognized organization approved by the board</li> <li>• Pass a board approved interpreter code of ethics exam</li> <li>• Proof of citizenship</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Permits</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High school diploma or equivalent</li> <li>• Pass a board approved interpreter code of ethics exam</li> <li>• Board approved interpreting performance assessment</li> <li>• U.S. citizen or legally present</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Educational Interpreter</b></u></p> <p>Grandfathered education employee issued a permit authorizing work in the K-12 educational setting only.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 and 34-16-6  <i>Administrative Rule</i> 488-X-1-.04</p>								
<b>Examinations</b>	<p>The Board does not examine applicants. Applicants for an unrestricted permit must provide evidence of passing the Jacksonville State University Interpreter Knowledge Skills Assessment. The Board also recognizes passage of the following performance assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia Quality Assessment (GAQA) Levels 3,4,5</li> <li>• Florida Quality Assessment (FLQA) Level 3</li> <li>• Educational Interpreter Evaluation (EIE) Level 3</li> <li>• Mississippi Quality Assessment (MSQA) Level 3</li> <li>• Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Levels 3.0 to 3.9</li> <li>• Kansas Quality Assessment Level 4 or higher</li> </ul> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 and 34-16-6  <i>Administrative Rule</i> 488-X-1-.06</p>								

<b>Reciprocity</b>	<p>There are no reciprocal licensure agreements with other states.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Board Administrator</p>
<b>Renewals</b>	<p>Licenses\permits renew annually. Lapsed licenses\permits may be reinstated within 45 days of March 15<sup>th</sup> if in good standing and payment of renewal, late, and reinstatement fees.</p> <p>As of 2/18/2020, 95% of renewals were online for FY 2019.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 and 34-16-6</p>
<b>Continuing Education</b>	<p>2 CEUs per 12-month cycle or 8 CEUs in four years for Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certified interpreters.</p> <p><i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 34-16-5 and 34-16-6 Administrative Rule 488-X-1-.01</p>

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUE**

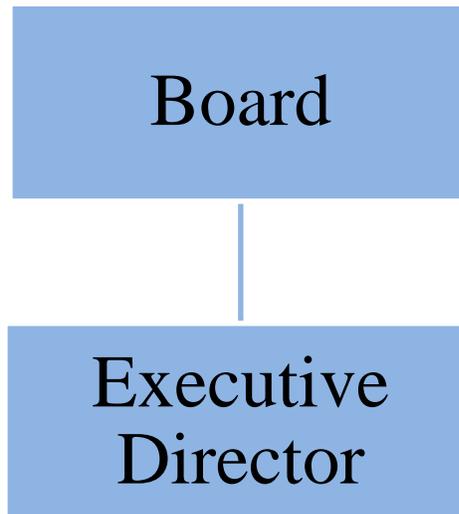
**Significant Issue 2020-01 – All nine Board members are serving beyond their term expiration dates.** Four Board members’ terms expired in 2016, three in 2017, and two in 2018.

**Board’s Response –** The Board has experienced a delay in receiving nominations from the appointing authorities outlined in the statute. The Board was prepared with nominations prior to the COVID-19 State of Emergency but were delayed. The nominations will be submitted to the Governor’s Office the first of June and should be resolved prior to the Sunset Hearing.

## **STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved.

## **ORGANIZATION**



## **PERSONNEL**

The Board contracts with Warren & Company, Inc. of Montgomery, Alabama to provide administrative services as well as an executive director. The current contract compensates Warren & Company, Inc. \$18,900 annually to be paid in monthly installments of \$1,575.00. The current contract expires June 30, 2021.

### **Legal Counsel**

Bill Garrett, Assistant Attorney General, employee of the Attorney General’s Office, provides legal services.

## **PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Number of Persons per Licensee in Alabama and Surrounding States**

	<b>Population (Estimate)*</b>	<b>Number of Licensees</b>	<b>Persons Per Licensee</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>4,903,185</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>16,621</b>
Florida <sup>1</sup>	21,477,737	-	-
Georgia <sup>2</sup>	10,617,423	265	40,066
Mississippi <sup>3</sup>	2,976,149	138	21,566
Tennessee <sup>4</sup>	6,829,174	Not available	Not available

\*Source: U.S. Census, December 2019 Population Estimates

<sup>1</sup> No licensure requirements.

<sup>2</sup> Georgia only licenses educator interpreters

<sup>3</sup> Mississippi only requires registration of interpreters and transliterators.

<sup>4</sup> Tennessee only licenses educator interpreters through the Department of Education.

**Operating Disbursements per Licensee FY 2019 - \$94.30**

**Notification of Board decisions to Amend Administrative Rules**

The Board complied with notification procedures prescribed in the Administrative Procedure Act, which includes publication of proposed rules in the Administrative Monthly, and public hearings on proposed rules. Licensees are not specifically notified of proposed changes.

**COMPLAINT HANDLING**

The Board's Administrative Rule 488-X-1-.11 provides the procedures for documentation, receipt and investigation of complaints received by the Board.

<b>Initial Contact/Documentation</b>	Any person, including Board members and staff, can file a complaint. Complaints can be submitted in writing or video recording, through the mail or walk-in. Complaints must be submitted to the Board Chair within 90 days of occurrence. A specific complaint form is not required but is available on the Board's website and complaints must be sworn. The Board's legal assistant sends written confirmation of complaint receipt.
<b>Anonymous Complaints Accepted</b>	No
<b>Investigative Process / Probable Cause Determination</b>	The Board's investigator conducts the investigation and presents a report to the Investigative Committee for review and probable cause determination. The committee consists of one Board member, Board counsel, and the Executive Director.
<b>Negotiated Settlements</b>	Yes
<b>Notification of Resolution to the Complainant</b>	Complainants are notified in writing.

<b>Schedule of Complaints Resolved</b>					
FY 2016 through 2019					
Year/Number Received	Year/Number Resolved				Pending
	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>1</sup>	
2016 /#3	1	2	-	-	-
2017 /#3		3	-	-	-
2018 /#9			6	3	-
2019 <sup>1</sup> /#2				2	-
<sup>1</sup> As of February 13, 2020					
<i>Source:</i> Board Legal Assistant					

Resolved = Final order or settlement agreement in hand.

**Average Time to Resolve Complaints:** 107 days.

**Disposition of Resolved Complaints**

<b># of Complaints</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
3	Unsubstantiated
1	Cease and desist order issued
1	Referred to Alabama Ethics Commission
3	No jurisdiction
4	Lack of complainant cooperation
2	Removed from Dept. of Human Resources interpreter list
1	Respondent was licensed
2	Respondent no longer employed by school system

**REGULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

There is no direct overlap of regulation with other state or federal agencies.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Source of Funds** – License fees and fines.

### **Fund**

The Board operates from Special Revenue Fund 0959, maintained in the State Treasury. The Board cannot expend funds without an appropriation from the Legislature. Unexpended balances of no more than \$250,000 remain on hand for subsequent appropriation and expenditure. Remaining funds in excess of \$250,000 shall be available to provide for education and training for interpreters and transliterators in post-secondary programs (*Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 34-16-9).

### **Schedule of Fees**

The Board's statutory authority do not set the fees nor do the statutes establish a range for the fees. The Board's fees are set in **Administrative Rule 488-X-1-.02**.

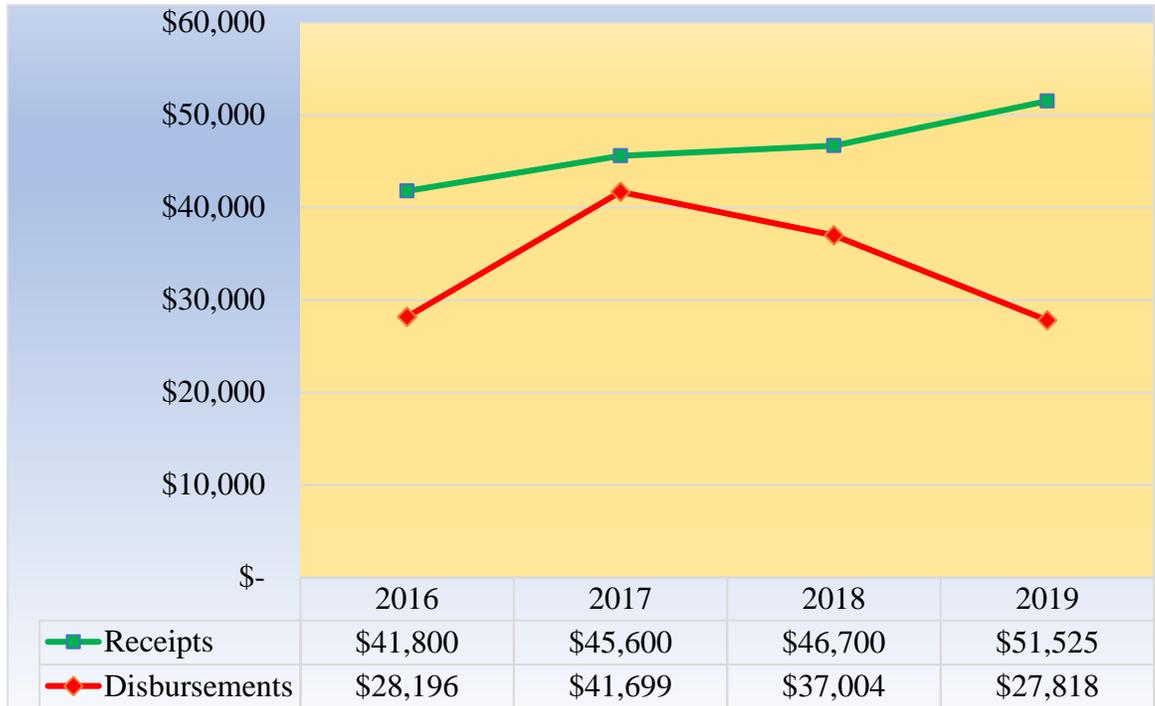
<b>FEE TYPE/PURPOSE</b>	<b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT COLLECTED</b>
Application	34-16-4(i)(2)	\$ 50.00
Initial License	34-16-5(b)	\$175.00
Renewal License	34-16-5(d)	\$175.00
License Renewal Late	34-16-5(d)	\$100.00
Initial Permit	34-16-6(b)	\$125.00
Renewal Permit	34-16-6(c)	\$125.00
Permit Renewal Late	34-16-6(d)	\$100.00
Replacement	Cost Recovery	\$25.00
90-Day Exempt Permit	34-16-7(4)	\$50.00
Returned check	8-8-15(b)	\$30.00
License Reinstatement	34-16-5(d)	\$25.00
Permit Reinstatement	34-16-6(d)	\$25.00

**Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances**

October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2019

	<b><u>2018-2019</u></b>	<b><u>2017-2018</u></b>	<b><u>2016-2017</u></b>	<b><u>2015-2016</u></b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Licenses and Permits	\$ 51,525.00	\$ 46,700.00	\$ 45,600.00	\$ 41,800.00
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>				
Travel-In-State	1,693.01	1,035.63	529.68	112.45
Rentals and Leases	17.28	17.28	15.36	18.24
Utilities and Communications	395.40	459.05	898.08	1,400.12
Professional Services	24,038.44	33,984.94	38,345.61	23,938.66
Supplies, Materials and Operating Expenses	1,674.00	1,507.00	1,910.72	2,651.15
Other Equipment Purchases	-	-	-	74.99
Total	<u>27,818.13</u>	<u>37,003.90</u>	<u>41,699.45</u>	<u>28,195.61</u>
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	23,706.87	9,696.10	3,900.55	13,604.39
Cash Balances at Beginning of Year	<u>43,122.06</u>	<u>33,425.96</u>	<u>29,525.41</u>	<u>15,921.02</u>
Cash Balances at End of Year	66,828.93	43,122.06	33,425.96	29,525.41
Reserve for Unpaid Obligations	<u>(21,400.00)</u>	<u>(2,373.04)</u>	<u>(5,833.14)</u>	<u>(22,686.10)</u>
Unreserved Cash Balances at End Year	<u>\$ 45,428.93</u>	<u>\$ 40,749.02</u>	<u>\$ 27,592.82</u>	<u>\$ 6,839.31</u>

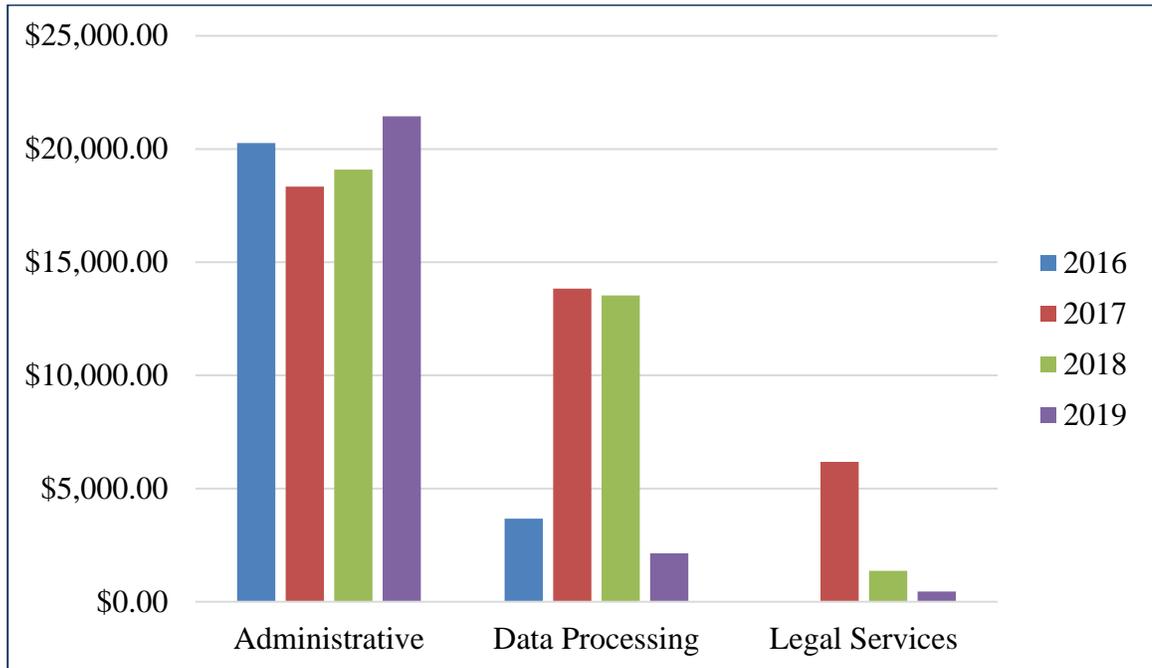
**Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements (Chart)**



<b>SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DISBURSEMENTS*</b>				
As of September 30th				
<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>
Administrative	\$20,266.91	\$18,335.77	\$19,087.44	\$21,446.69
Data Processing	3,671.75	13,831.84	13,532.50	2,141.75
Legal Services	\$0.00	6,178.00	1,365.00	450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,938.66</b>	<b>\$38,345.61</b>	<b>\$33,984.94</b>	<b>\$24,038.44</b>

\*Detailed information presented in the appendix.

### Professional Service Disbursement Chart



## **QUESTIONNAIRES**

### **Board Member Questionnaire**

A letter was sent to all nine members of the Board for Licensure of Interpreters and Transliterators requesting participation in our survey. Six members participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

#### **1. What are the most significant issues currently facing the Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators and how is the Board addressing these issues?**

**Board Member #1** – “Governor renewing appointments. Many of our appointments have been expired for 2 years.”

**Board Member #2** – “RID's License test is not available at this moment and we are trying to find another alternative to be certified interpreter in the State of Alabama”

**Board Member #3** – “Ensuring the interpreters and interpreter services providers stay abreast of the Alabama interpreter law and regulations. The Board stays involved with state and local interpreter organizations and service providers.”

**Board Member #4** – “A significant issue that has faced the Licensure Board for some time has been finding a testing format for Deaf Interpreters (DI) wanting to obtain permit or license status. Recently the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) certification program has developed a performance test for DI or Intermediary Interpreters. The ALBIT board recently reviewed and passed BEI Intermediary Levels III and IV at permit level and Level V for license along with the required CEUs to maintain certification and the passing of a written interpreter test.”

**Board Member #5** – “There have been challenges in getting appointments to fill Board seats; all board members have exceeded their term and continue to serve in respect to the law's guidelines. We are communicating with stakeholders to encourage people to submit letters of interest to the Governor's appointments clerk. To date, there have been several efforts made with little or no response or feedback from the Governor's office in terms of making sure people are submitting the correct information and to the correct place. Efforts have been made to clarify this issue and Board members continue to ask people to re-submit letters if they have done so in the past. Another challenge is the current wording of the law; it has not grown to meet the rapid growth of the profession. The profession has had changes nationwide in how people qualify to become interpreters, or document their continuing education, and that has presented a challenge in making sure qualified people can work in the State of Alabama, while working to grow the body of interpreters statewide.”

**Board Member #6** – “The most significant issues facing the ALBIT are 1) every member of the board's term apparently has expired, 2) language in the Interpreter License Law is outdated and needs to be changed. My understanding is that we are waiting for the Governor's office to select replacements or reselect the same board members to serve another term. We have a committee working on the wording for changes to the Law.”

**2. What changes, if any, to the Board's law are needed?**

**Board Member #1** – “There is a committee working on updating the law right now. The law is 20+ yrs old and updates are needed.”

**Board Member #2** – “I do not see anything that need to be change to the board's law”

**Board Member #3** – “Unsure at this time.”

**Board Member #4** – “There are a few changes that have been suggested to clean up the performance tests that are accepted for permit level. Some of these tests are no longer given so they need to be removed from the rules and regs.”

**Board Member #5** – “The interpreting profession has made changes in leaps and bounds over the past 20 years of the Board's existence. At this time, there are now more nationwide standards in existence that work towards qualifying people for the profession of sign language interpreters; it has been a challenge in complying with the law and ensuring people who want to work in Alabama, have the opportunity to work as sign language interpreters, while protecting the interest of individuals who receive those services. Interpreters work in a variety of fields: education, legal, medical, community, and so forth. The role carries a significant amount of public trust. To date, the Board has discussed/created a proposal with changes to the law and shared it with members of the public for feedback. The feedback received showed that changes were needed, both with the current law, and the proposed ideas. The law needs changes in respect to: 1) licensure (what tests will be accepted; this needs to be broadened) 2) permit (what tests will be accepted 3) need a tier system to encourage people to work their way up and build skills along the way. The way the law is written currently encourages complacency in some skill areas, potentially harming those individuals who depend on the services of a sign language interpreter to participate in events/meetings that are not otherwise accessible. 4) more acceptance of nationwide interpreting credentialing bodies to encourage people to have choices in seeking their qualification for licensure or permit. 5) flexibility to temporarily stop accepting certain qualifying standards due to issues nationwide in terms of issuing test materials that people can take. (One nationwide credentialing body suspended its test for more than three years, impacting the ability of people to qualify for the highest level of qualification in Alabama, impacting those peoples' earning power) We also need to look at adding categories to cover the instruction of American Sign Language in Alabama. Some areas have community providers teaching ASL, however, there have been community complaints regarding the quality of education in this area, and the Board office has received complaints. All we can say is that it's not currently covered under the law.”

**Board Member #6** – “Under definitions, #2 “Code of Ethics” should be changed to “Code of Professional Conduct” to coincide with changes made under the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. #6 “Intermediary Interpreter” should be changed to “Deaf Interpreter”. We need to clarify the tests that qualify for a license and permit. Under Permit to Practice, there needs to be added a term limit of five years for the permit to be renewable. After that, the interpreter/transliterator will be required to produce documentation that the applicant has taken a nationally recognized certification exam before they can apply for another renewable permit.

*Board Member Questionnaire*

Also, when an interpreter/transliterater is granted a renewable or provisional permit, they will be required to retain a mentor, of their own choosing and at their own expense, to assist them in raising their skill to a level where they will be able to take and pass a nationally recognized exam prior to the five year term expiration. Make sure that section 34-16-11 are in alignment with section 34-16-13.”

**3. Is the Board adequately funded?**

**Yes                      6                      100%**

**Board Member #3** - “Could use additional funds for education to the interpreter Community and to service providers.”

**4. Is the Board adequately staffed?**

**Yes                      6                      100%**

**5. Does the Board receive regular reports on the operations of the board from the executive director?**

**Yes                      6                      100%**

**6. Are you satisfied with the reports the Board receives from the executive director?**

**Yes                      6                      100%**

**7. Did the Board experience any significant changes to its operations?**

**No                      6                      100%**

**8. What, if any, changes does the Board plan any significant changes in its operations?**

**Board Member #1** – “None.”

**Board Member #2** – “we tried hard to stay top of state law in interpreter field”

**Board Member #3** – “None.”

**Board Member #4** – “None to my knowledge.”

**Board Member #5** – “No changes have been discussed to date operationally. The only discussions that impact operations have focused on which materials to accept in respect to qualifying a person to work as an interpreter in Alabama.”

**Board Member #6** – “I am not aware of any changes that need to be made.”

**Licensee Questionnaire**

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting participation in our survey. Twenty-one licensees participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

**1. Do you think regulation of your profession by the Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators is necessary to protect the public welfare?**

Yes	20	95%
No	1	5%

**2. Do you think *any* of the Board’s requirements are irrelevant to the competent practice of your profession?**

Yes	3	14%
No	17	81%
Unknown	1	5%

**Respondent #12** – “Permitted interpreters should be able stretch out their CEU requirements over a period of time longer than 12 months, as licensed interpreters do... for example, finish 30 CEUs one year and 10 the next.”

**3. Did the Board perform your licensing and renewal in a timely manner?**

Yes	18	86%
No	2	9%
No Opinion	1	5%

**Respondent #18** – “This is my first year on the job, and I haven’t yet reached time for renewal.”

**4. What do you think is(are) the most significant issue(s) currently facing your profession in Alabama and what is the Board doing to address the issue(s)?**

**Respondent #1** – “The lack of communication between the Board and interpreters needs some improvement. Maybe meeting more than a few times a year or communicate through other avenues, like email or phone calls”

**Respondent #2** – “The requirements for various levels of certification need to be reexamined. For example, the board currently accepts an EIPA score of 3.0 to get a permit in Alabama and begin working in our profession. According to the person who created the EIPA, a score of 3.0 to 3.4 means the Interpreter is conveying only 50-59% of the message accurately (based on K-12 classroom information). Yet, an interpreter who has a score of 3.0 can receive a permit and begin interpreting in medical, university, and other settings in which they are not qualified. There should

be greater controls as to what types of assignments interpreters can accept based on their credentials. This issue has been brought up to the Board and the only thing that has changed is that the Board has lowered the requirements for a person to get a license. This is harming our Deaf community.”

**Respondent #3** – “My only issue is how complaints are processed. From what I have heard from people who have processed complaints they have not been resolved and then an interpreter or Deaf person feels exposed after filing a complaint. There doesn't seem to be enough clout behind the processing system. The reason for a Licensing Board is to protect consumers (hearing and Deaf) by A) vetting the interpreters that have a license B) establishing a balance system in which interpreters can be "re" vetted if necessary and/or at minimum have a complaint filed against them and made public so that the public is aware of any past discretion. Currently, Interpreters are able to pass a national test, get their license and pay their annual dues. Following suit of other professions such as the Alabama State Bar for lawyers. <http://judicial.alabama.gov/library/RulesBarDisProc>  
<https://www.alabar.org/office-of-general-counsel/disciplinary-history/>”

**Respondent #4** – “Inequality in pay among permitted and licensed interpreters working in various settings. Educational interpreters do not have a set salary scale at the AL State Department of Education. ALBIT has not been successful in working with the revolving State Superintendent’s in the past 5 years.”

**Respondent #5** – “Nothing comes to mind.”

**Respondent #6** – “Continuing permits and licenses”

**Respondent #7** – “Not making the cost of the fees friendlier. Interpreters do not make a lot of money and charging an exorbitant amount of money to renew is ridiculous.”

**Respondent #8** – “I think the annual fee is too much. For those of us who are also members of RID, we are spending around \$350 a year to (hopefully) show we are qualified. On top of that, we spend hundreds of dollars annually on CEUs. It’s just pretty extreme.”

**Respondent #9** – “A shortage of qualified interpreters, and a definite lack of general knowledge about the profession itself.”

**Respondent #10** – “Attracting younger people to the profession needs to be streamlined.”

**Respondent #11** – “I do not know. I do not live in Alabama; however, I believe in most places would be under qualified interpreters being used in setting where Certified experienced interpreters should be”

**Respondent #12** – “Lack of interpreters. I don't know what the Board is doing to address the issue.”

**Respondent #13** – “There is a lack of interpreters within the State of Alabama at this time; therefore, the work of the Board to maintain a registry of qualified interpreters remains very important. It is important that when hiring interpreters throughout the State to meet the demand for interpreters that the quality of skills expected by applicants remains high and does not lag behind.”

**Respondent #14** – “CURRENT EIPA QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT HIGH ENOUGH. STANDARDS SHOULD BE RAISED FOR PERMITTED INTERPRETERS AND FOR EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS.”

**Respondent #15** – “I am a Deaf educator and have been a permitted educational interpreter since the start of certification in Alabama. I am very dissatisfied with the everything. To my knowledge, the board has done nothing but take my money and make my job more difficult for the last twenty years. Significant issues- Number 1: The cost Number 2: Lack of training opportunities for educational interpreters or interpreters who work in public schools Number 3: Lack of respect for educational interpreters who work with deaf children in public schools. All these regulations have done nothing but punish us and make services for deaf children more difficult to provide.”

**Respondent #16** – “Don’t know”

**Respondent #17** – “There are not enough interpreters. That has always been an issue though. Also, there is a lack of professional development opportunities on a face-to-face local level to meet PD requirements”

**Respondent #18** – “No comment”

**Respondent #19** – “There needs to be more workshops provided to give interpreters the opportunity for professional development. AIDB and ALRID don’t have any workshops and interpreters have to go out of state for their CEU’s. If the board wants more professional interpreters, they need to provide workshops and trainings that advance the profession and the quality of interpreters in Alabama.”

**Respondent #20** – “Unlimited renewal of Permits without advancing to Licensure. We need to set a time limit.”

**Respondent #21** – “The teachers at sci-fi not always take an Interpreters role seriously”

**5. Do you think the Board adequately communicates issues or statutory changes affecting your profession?**

Yes	9	43%
No	5	24%
Unknown	3	14%
No Opinion	4	19%

**Respondent #8** – “I don’t get any information about the overseeing of interpreters or information re: statutory changes.”

**Respondent #15** – “We haven’t heard anything from them in years and then all of the sudden halfway through the year, when many of us has already attended training over the summer, we were informed those trainings no longer met the CEU requirement. Totally unacceptable. So many interpreters, who get paid very little, had to go out and pay for additional training because the board was unwilling to accept the completed training that had been accepted for the 5 years prior. We should have been notified at the beginning of the renewal window last year that the training would no longer be accepted. Also, give me a break. If I go to a training and learn something, why does it have to be RID certified? So far, I have spent close to \$200 on trainings this year and that doesn't include the cost to renew my permit.”

**6. Do you think mandatory continuing education is necessary for competent practice?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>90%</b>
No	1	5%
No Opinion	1	5%

**Respondent #8** – “I can see having some CEUs and maybe the requirements could depend on the number of years the individual has been interpreting, but those of us who’ve been interpreting for decades have taken dozens of very similar workshops.”

**Respondent #9** – “Absolutely, however I would like to see us to have two years as opposed to a single year to get our 20 hours.”

**Respondent #15** – “Yes, however those who hold an educational interpreter's permit or general permit should not be required to get the same kind or amount of training as a Licensed Interpreter. Also, if you are going to require continuing education, take some of the money we are paying every year and provide meaningful training for educational and general permitted interpreters. Where has all that money been going??”

**Respondent #17** – “I understand why it is mandatory but I think if an individual truly cares about his or her profession than he or she will want to get continuing education to better themselves regardless if the continuing education is mandatory or not.”

**Complainant Questionnaire**

A letter was sent to all two complainants requesting their participation in our survey. One complainant participated in the survey. The percentages, where shown, are based on the number who responded to the question.

**1. How was your complaint filed with the Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators?**

**Postal Service            1            100%**

**2. Was receipt of your complaint acknowledged?**

**Yes                            1            100%**

**3. If you answer to Question 2 was “YES”, how long after you filed your complaint were you contacted by the board?**

**30 days or less        1            100%**

**4. Was the Board employee who responded to your complaint knowledgeable and courteous?**

**No Opinion            1            100%**

**5. Did the Board communicate the results of the investigation into your complaint to you?**

**Unknown                1            100%**

**Respondent #1** – “Unknown. The board chose not to accept the complaint because rather than accepting the certified mail postmark as other agencies do, the board determined that a postmark on the deadline date was considered late - it had to be in their physical hands by the deadline date - this is not stated anywhere in their policies.”

**6. Do you think the Board did everything it could to resolve your complaint?**

**No                            1            100%**

**7. Were you satisfied with your experience with the Board?**

**No                            1            100%**

# **APPENDICES**

## **Applicable Statutes**

### **Section 34-16-1 Short title; construction.**

(a) This chapter shall be known as the "Alabama Licensure for Interpreters and Transliterators Act."

(b) This chapter shall be liberally construed and implemented to promote the purposes and policies set forth herein.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §1.)*

### **Section 34-16-2 Legislative intent.**

The Legislature declares that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to regulate the practice of interpreting and transliterating on behalf of consumers who are hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled by licensing and permitting the providers of interpreting and transliterating services, and establishing and monitoring interpreting and transliterating standards in the State of Alabama.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §2.)*

### **Section 34-16-3 Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) BOARD. The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators, created pursuant to Section 34-16-4.

(2) CODE OF ETHICS. The tenets established by the Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf which set guidelines governing professional conduct for interpreters and transliterators, and any other code of ethics approved by the board.

(3) CONSUMER. A hard of hearing, deaf, or speech disabled person or any other person or an agency that requires the services of an interpreter or transliterator to effectively communicate and comprehend signed or spoken discourse.

(4) CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM or CEP. A program approved by the board to improve the skill level of licensees and permit holders.

(5) FUND. The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators Fund, created pursuant to Section 34-16-9.

(6) INTERMEDIARY INTERPRETER. A person who is credentialed as an interpreter and who serves in an intermediary capacity between another deaf person and another licensed or permitted interpreter or between two or more deaf persons.

(7) INTERPRETER. A person who is credentialed as a professional interpreter and who engages in the practice of interpreting among consumers. Fluency in all languages interpreted is required.

(8) INTERPRETING or TRANSLITERATING. The process of providing accessible communication between and among consumers who do not share a common means of communication. For the purposes of this chapter, interpreting means those processes known as interpretation and transliteration and includes communication modalities, including, but not limited to, visual, gestural, and tactile channels.

(9) NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION. A certification awarded to individuals who successfully complete an evaluation of interpreting skills at a

professional level. The term includes a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification, or an equivalent such as the National Association for the Deaf/Alabama Association for the Deaf Interpreter Assessment Program Level 4 or Level 5, or Cued Speech Certification at a national level.

(10) ORGANIZATIONS. The Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD), a state chapter of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD); Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ALRID), an affiliate state chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., (RID).

(11) SIGN LANGUAGE. Includes all of the following communication systems:

a. American Sign Language (ASL) Based. The language of the deaf community that is linguistically independent from English. The term refers to the visual gestural language used in the United States and parts of Canada and includes all regional variations.

b. English Based Sign Systems. Includes, but is not limited to, all visual representations of the English language such as manually coded English, Pidgin Sign English, and Oral Interpreting.

c. Sign Language. A generic term used to describe a continuum of visual-manual language and communication systems.

d. Cued Speech. A system of handshapes which represents groups of consonant sounds, combined with hand placements which represent groups of vowel sounds, used with natural speech to represent a visual model of spoken language.

(12) TRANSLITERATOR. A person who is credentialed as a professional transliterator and who engages in the practice of transliteration between consumers utilizing two different modes of the same language. Fluency in both modes of language is required. (*Act 98-675, p. 1480, §3.*)

**Section 34-16-4 Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators - Creation; composition; meetings; duties; compensation.**

(a) There is created the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators.

(b) The board shall consist of nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(1) Four members certified as interpreters or transliterators at a professional level by a nationally recognized certification, one of whom shall work in an educational setting. A list of three nominations for each of these positions shall be submitted to the Governor by ALRID.

(2) Three deaf or hard of hearing members who are knowledgeable in the field of professional interpreting. A list of three nominations for each of these positions shall be submitted to the Governor by AAD.

(3) Two members at-large who have an interest in and are experienced in dealing with issues that affect the deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreting communities.

(c) All members of the board shall be citizens of the United States and the State of Alabama. In appointing members to the board, the nominating organizations and the Governor, to the extent possible, shall select those persons whose appointments ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(d) A list of three nominees for each position, except for the at-large positions, shall be submitted to the Governor by the designated organizations by October 1, 1998. The initial terms shall begin January 1, 1999.

(e) The initial members of the board shall serve the following terms as designated by the Governor:

(1) Four of the initial members shall serve for two years.

(2) Three of the initial members shall serve for three years.

(3) Two of the initial members shall serve for four years.

(f) Subsequent terms of office shall be four years. No board member may serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from the remaining names on the list of nominees for that position. Each board member shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

(g) At its first meeting each year, the board shall elect a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary. No member shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive years in the same office.

(h) After the initial appointments to the board are made, the board shall meet by January 31 of the following year for the purpose of organizing and transacting business as may properly come before the board. Subsequently, the board shall meet not less than twice annually, and as frequently as it deems necessary, at such time and places as it designates. A quorum necessary to transact business shall consist of five of the members of the board.

(i) The board shall have all of the following duties:

(1) Act on matters concerning licensure and permitting, and the process of granting, suspending, reinstating, and revoking a license or permit.

(2) Set a fee schedule for granting licenses and permits, for renewing licenses and permits, for reinstating a lapsed license or permit, and for assessing penalties for late renewal. The fees shall be sufficient to cover the cost of the continued operation and administration of the board.

(3) Develop a mechanism for processing applications for licenses, permits, and renewals.

(4) Establish a procedure to enable the investigation of complaints concerning the violation of ethical practices for licensed or permitted interpreters.

(5) Maintain a current register of licensed interpreters and a current register of permitted interpreters. These registers shall be matters of public record.

(6) Maintain a complete record of all board proceedings.

(7) Submit an annual report detailing the proceedings of the board to the Governor and file a copy with the Secretary of State.

(8) Adopt continuing education requirements no later than October 1 of the year in which the initial board is appointed. These requirements shall be implemented by January 1 of the year following for renewal of a license or permit.

(j) Board members shall receive the same travel expenses and per diem as state employees pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 36 and incidental and clerical expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out this chapter. The compensation and expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the board. Reimbursement shall not be made if available funds are insufficient for this purpose.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §4; Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2003-66, p. 104, §3.)*

**Section 34-16-5 License required; application; issuance; renewal.**

(a) After March 15, 1998, any person who provides interpreting or transliterating services for remuneration shall be required annually to be licensed or permitted by the board unless that person is exempt from licensure or permitting pursuant to Section 34-16-7.

(b) The initial license shall be issued upon submission of an application, an affidavit documenting current validation of a nationally recognized certification as approved by the board, and payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee by March 15. Licenses shall be renewed annually, upon submission of an application and an affidavit documenting current nationally recognized certification at a professional level as approved by the board, payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee, and participation in a continuing education program approved by the board.

(c) All applicants for licensure who are initially certified after January 1, 1995, shall submit an affidavit documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam approved by the board.

(d) Failure to renew a license on or before March 15 of any year, shall result in a lapse of the license. A lapsed license that is not renewed within 45 days after March 15 of the year of the lapse, shall expire. The holder of the lapsed license may be reinstated by the board if the licensee is in compliance with all other relevant requirements of the board, applies to the board for renewal pursuant to this section, and pays the appropriate renewal, late penalty, and reinstatement fees prescribed by the board.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §5, Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2003-66, p. 104, §3.)*

**Section 34-16-6 Permit to practice; renewal; ethics examination; lapse of permit.**

(a) Any person who practices as an interpreter or transliterator for remuneration on August 1, 1998, but who does not otherwise meet the requirements for licensure, may obtain a renewable permit to practice interpretation or transliteration. An initial permit shall be issued upon submission of the application, documentation of a high school diploma or GED, current employment as an interpreter, and payment of the nonrefundable annual fee. Any person who does not obtain an initial permit by March 15, 1999, may obtain a nonrenewable provisional permit to practice interpretation or transliteration upon the submission of the application, documentation of a high school diploma or GED, payment of the nonrefundable fee, and submission of three letters of recommendation from licensed interpreters that verify the skill level of the applicant.

(b) In subsequent years, permit holders and nonrenewable permit holders may apply for a renewable annual permit that shall require the submission of an affidavit and supporting materials documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam as approved by the board and an interpreting performance assessment approved by the board, the payment of the required nonrefundable annual fee, and the participation in a continuing education program approved by the board. Each applicant shall also be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government. The affidavit shall be submitted no later than March 15 annually.

(c) Subsequent renewal of a permit by a cued speech transliterator shall require submission of an affidavit and supporting materials documenting that the applicant has passed an interpreter code of ethics exam as approved by the board and payment of the

required nonrefundable annual fee and participation in a continuing education program approved by the board. Each applicant shall also be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government. The affidavit shall be submitted no later than March 15 annually.

(d) Failure to renew a permit on or before March 15 of any year, shall result in a lapse of the permit. The holder of the lapsed permit may be reinstated by the board if the permittee is in compliance with all other relevant requirements of the board, applies to the board for renewal pursuant to this section, and pays the appropriate renewal, late penalty, and reinstatement fees prescribed by the board.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §6; Act 2002-80, p. 254, §3; Act 2009-14, p. 27, §3.)*

### **Section 34-16-7 Exemptions.**

The following persons shall be exempt from licensure or permitting pursuant to this chapter:

(1) Any student who is enrolled in a formal American sign language program, a formal interpreter training program, or a formal interpreter or transliterator internship program. The student shall be allowed to interpret or transliterate as part of his or her training for a maximum of 16 weeks in an educational setting or 120 hours in an agency or business.

(2) Any person who interprets or transliterates solely in a church, synagogue, temple, or other religious setting.

(3) Any person residing outside of the State of Alabama may provide interpreting and transliterating services for up to 14 working days per calendar year without a license.

(4) Any person desiring to interpret for remuneration where circumstances do not allow for fulfillment of the stated requirements for licensure or permitting may petition the board for exemption status.

(5) Those public education personnel and State Department of Rehabilitation personnel, who are not hired as interpreters and transliterators and who are not as a part of their job description responsible for providing interpreting or transliteration services, in circumstances that may necessitate their function as interpreters and transliterators in emergency or incidental situations.

(6) All other public education personnel hired prior to March 15, 2000, who provide interpreting and transliterating services to students. These personnel shall apply for and receive a permit specifying that their permits are restricted to interpreting and transliteration services provided in the public education setting only. The application for this permit shall be submitted to the board prior to October 1, 2000. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder to annually renew the permit by earning continuing education units in compliance with the requirements of the interpreters and transliterators licensure law. If personnel, who have been grandfathered in pursuant to this subdivision, for any reason should allow their permits to lapse or expire, those personnel shall lose all privileges of this exemption and shall adhere to all requirements of the interpreters and transliterators licensure law to renew their permits.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §7; Act 2000-755, p. 1711, §1.)*

**Section 34-16-8 Reciprocity agreements authorized.**

(a) The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any state, agency, or other organization that licenses, certifies, or registers professional interpreters or transliterators, or both, if the board finds that the state, agency, or organization has substantially the same requirements or more stringent requirements.

(b) The reciprocity agreement shall provide that the board shall license anyone who is currently licensed, certified, or registered in that state or by that agency or other organization if that state, agency, or other organization agrees to license, certify, or register any practitioners who are currently licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(c) The board shall set by regulation the fees appropriate in processing reciprocity.  
(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §8.)

**Section 34-16-9 Annual fee; fund.**

(a) The annual fee may be increased or decreased by the board, provided, the board shall not set an annual fee at an amount which would not provide sufficient revenues to pay all the costs and expenses incurred by the board in enforcing this chapter.

(b) The annual fee shall cover a license or permit for the 12-month period beginning March 15 of each year.

(c) There is created in the State Treasury the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators Fund. All fees collected by the board shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the fund. Monies in the fund shall be subject to withdrawal only upon warrant of the state Comptroller to be issued upon certification of the secretary or treasurer of the board.

(d) Any funds remaining in the State Treasury to the credit of the board at the end of each year in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be available to provide for the education and training of interpreters and transliterators in postsecondary programs. At all times the board may retain a sum not in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to meet any emergency which may affect the efficient operation of the board. No funds shall be withdrawn or expended except as budgeted and allocated pursuant to Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and Sections 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills. There shall be appropriated from the fund to the board for the fiscal years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 an amount deemed necessary by the board to fund the costs of its operations.  
(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §9.)

**Section 34-16-10 Application for license or permit; issuance; rejection.**

(a) Any person may apply for a license or a permit pursuant to this chapter by filing a written application on a form prescribed by the board not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of the board. The application shall be accompanied by the payment of the annual nonrefundable license fee or permit fee. The credentials of the applicant shall be reviewed according to the rules of the board.

(b) If the board finds the credentials in order, a license or permit shall be issued to the applicant.

(c) If the board rejects the credentials, the applicant will be notified in writing informing him or her of the reasons for rejection.

(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §10.)

**Section 34-16-11 Charges of fraud, deceit, etc., against holder of license or permit; hearing; appeal; reapplication.**

(a) Any person may bring charges of fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetence, or misconduct against a licensee or permit holder. All charges shall be made in writing or by video tape and sworn to by the person making the charges. All charges shall be submitted to the chair of the board within 90 days of the alleged occurrence. After a review of the charges, the board shall conduct a hearing at which it may dismiss the charges, or may impose a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or may suspend or revoke the license or permit of the person charged.

(b) The licensee or permit holder may appeal a decision of the board imposing an administrative fine or revoking or suspending a license or permit by submitting a request to the board for reconsideration within 90 days following the decision of the board. If no resolution is achieved, further appeals shall be submitted to the circuit court in the jurisdiction of the residence of the licensee or permit holder. Any licensee or permit holder whose application for renewal of licensure or permitting was denied or whose license or permit was revoked may reapply after 12 months. The board may then reissue a license or permit or rescind any disciplinary action if a majority of the members, which shall be no less than four members, vote in favor of the action.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §11.)*

**Section 34-16-12 Rules and regulations.**

The board may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this chapter and accomplish its objectives. The rules and regulations shall be published in the Standards of Professional Practice and made available to all licensees and permit holders. The rulemaking powers of the board are subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, Sections 41-22-1 to 41-22-27, inclusive.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §12.)*

**Section 34-16-13 Violations; penalties.**

After January 1, 1999, any person who undertakes or attempts to undertake the practice of interpreting or transliterating for remuneration among consumers without first having procured a valid license or permit, or who knowingly presents or files false information with the board for the purpose of obtaining a license or permit, or who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. A person who is not licensed or permitted may not bring or maintain an action to enforce any contract for interpreting or transliterating services which he or she entered into in violation of this chapter.

Whenever it appears to the board that any interpreter or transliterator has violated or is about to violate this chapter, the board may, in its own name, petition the circuit court of the county where the violation occurred or is about to occur to issue a temporary restraining order enjoining the violation.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §13.)*

**Section 34-16-14 Actions by board to recover damages; liability of board members.**

(a) The board may sue and be sued in its own name to recover actual or compensatory damages, including interest and court costs, sustained within the State of Alabama as

the result of conduct of any licensee or permit holder who violates this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.

(b) All members of the board shall be immune from civil liability while acting within the scope of their duties as board members.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §14.)*

**Section 34-16-15 Notification of conviction or pending civil action; breach of professional ethics, etc.**

(a) A licensee or permit holder shall notify the board within 10 days of any felony conviction, and within 10 days of a civil action being brought against the licensee or permit holder, if the civil action arose from an interpreting or transliterating transaction or involves the goodwill of a licensee or permit holder or an existing interpreting or transliterating business or agency. The notification shall be in writing, sent by certified mail, and include a copy of the judgement.

(b) Allegations of breach of professional ethics or conduct incompatible with the Standards of Professional Practice as determined by the board may be brought against a licensee or permit holder by any individual, business, or agency.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §15.)*

**Section 34-16-16 Sunset provision.**

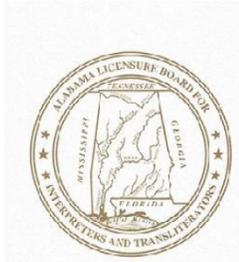
The board shall be an enumerated board pursuant to Sections 41-20-1 to 41-20-16, inclusive, and shall be reviewed at the same time as the State Board of Medical Examiners.

*(Act 98-675, p. 1480, §16.)*

**Professional Services by Vendor**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Administrative</b>				
<b>Accounting And Auditing-Professional</b>				
Warren & Company, Inc.	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,225.00	\$ 18,900.00
Leadership Alliance Llc	10,583.31			
<b>Advertising-Professional</b>				
Legislative Services Agency		100.00		200.00
Warren & Company, Inc.			29.00	
<b>Comptroller Services</b>				
Dept of Finance	353.60	221.87	240.39	241.14
<b>Information &amp; Research-Professional</b>				
Alabama Interactive LLC	225.00			
<b>Interfund Contract Programs</b>				
AIDB			577.50	2,090.00
<b>Mailing Services</b>				
Dept of Finance		13.90	15.55	15.55
<b>Services</b>				
Dept of Finance	105.00			
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$ 20,266.91</b>	<b>\$ 18,335.77</b>	<b>\$ 19,087.44</b>	<b>\$ 21,446.69</b>
<b>Data Processing</b>				
<b>Data Processing-Professional</b>				
Dept of Finance	3,553.75	8,084.34	2,384.25	
Office Of Information Technology			5,491.25	2,141.75
<b>Frms Services</b>				
Dept of Finance	118.00	122.50	32.00	
<b>Interfund Contract Programs</b>				
Dept of Finance		5,625.00	5,625.00	
<b>Total Data Processing</b>	<b>\$ 3,671.75</b>	<b>\$ 13,831.84</b>	<b>\$ 13,532.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,141.75</b>
<b>Legal</b>				
<b>Legal- Professional</b>				
Attorney General's Office		\$ 6,178.00	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 450.00
<b>Total Professional Services</b>	<b>\$ 23,938.66</b>	<b>\$ 38,345.61</b>	<b>\$ 33,984.94</b>	<b>\$ 24,038.44</b>

**Board Members**



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**ALABAMA LICENSURE BOARD**  
**FOR**  
**INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS**

P. O. Box 240187 (36124-0187)

2777 Zelda Road

Montgomery, AL 36106

Telephone (334) 277-8881

Fax (334) 277-0188

Email: [ALBIT.gov@gmail.com](mailto:ALBIT.gov@gmail.com)

[www.ALBIT.alabama.gov](http://www.ALBIT.alabama.gov)

February 12, 2020

Troy Eastman  
Examiners of Public Accounts  
Post Office Box 302251  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2251

Dear Mr. Eastman:

Listed below are the Board members serving during the audit period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Director*

## BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	TERM EXPIRATION	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	POSITION
Melvin Walker Chelsea, AL 35043	12/31/2017	2/19/2014	Board Chair
Nancy L. Hayes Talladega AL 35160	12/31/2018	2/18/2016	Board Vice Chair
Pat Smartt Sterrett, AL 35147	12/31/2016	10/07/2013	Board Secretary
Belinda Montgomery Lapine, AL 36046	12/31/2016	10/07/2013	
Ben Hollingsworth Huntsville, AL 35802	12/31/2016	2/26/2013	
Sharon Canada-Emann Oxford, AL 36203	12/31/2016	2/26/2013	
Nancy Brown Adams Prattville, AL 36066	12/31/2017	4/14/2015	
Tammy Adams Opp, AL 36467	12/31/2017	2/19/2014	
Sam Feibelman Mobile AL 36608	12/31/2018	2/18/2016	

**Board's Response to Significant Issues**



**STATE OF ALABAMA**

LICENSURE BOARD

FOR

INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLITERATORS

2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, AL 36106

Telephone (334) 277-8881

Fax (334) 277-0188

[albit.gov@gmail.com](mailto:albit.gov@gmail.com)

[www.albit.alabama.gov](http://www.albit.alabama.gov)

May 28, 2020

Maria Catledge  
Director, Operational Division  
Examiners of Public Accounts  
State of Alabama  
Post Office Box 302251  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2251

Dear Ms. Catledge,

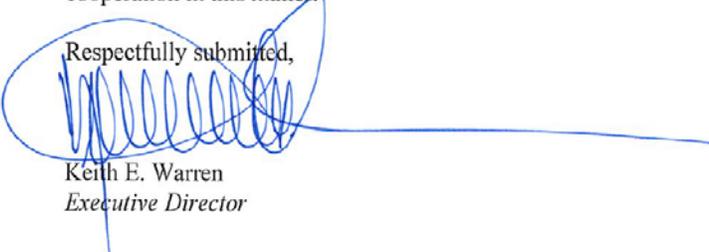
Please find below the responses to the Significant Issue outlined in your May 20, 2020 letter.

**Significant Issue 2020-01**

The Board has experienced a delay in receiving nominations from the appointing authorities outlined in the statute. The Board was prepared with nominations prior to the COVID-19 State of Emergency but were delayed. The nominations will be submitted to the Governor's Office the first of June and should be resolved prior to the Sunset Hearing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions or need any additional information regarding the above responses. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keith E. Warren  
Executive Director