- 1 HB355
- 2 148404-2
- 3 By Representative Johnson (R)
- 4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 5 First Read: 28-FEB-13

Τ	148404-2:n:02/15/2013:KMS/mfc LRS2013-684R1	
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8	SYNOPSIS:	Under existing law, the State Board of
9		Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land
10		Surveyors is responsible for licensing and
11		governing the practice of engineers and land
12		surveyors in the state.
13		This bill would require that certain
14		applicants for licensure pass a board-approved
15		examination in lieu of an eight hour written
16		examination.
17		This bill would delete certain expired
18		provisions.
19		This bill would provide for a combined
20		application and licensure fee, not exceeding \$200,
21		for professional engineers and professional land
22		surveyors.
23		This bill would authorize the board to
24		contract with an independent testing agency for
25		administering and grading examinations.
26		This bill would delete the specific
27		authorization for joint practice and would delete

1 the requirement that the names and addresses of all 2 officers and board members of a corporation be filed with the board. 3 This bill would increase the disciplinary penalties from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per violation. 5 This bill would revise the appointment 6 7 process, membership of the board, and qualifications of board members. 8 This bill would provide that a simple 9 10 majority of the board members constitutes a quorum. 11 This bill would also increase the percentage 12 of the budget of the board from the previous year 13 that may remain in the Professional Engineers and 14 Land Surveyors Fund, and not be transferred to the 15 State General Fund, from 25 percent to 33 percent. 16 17 A BILL 18 TO BE ENTITLED 19 AN ACT 20 21 To amend Sections 34-11-1, 34-11-2, 34-11-3, 22 34-11-4, 34-11-5, 34-11-6, 34-11-8, 34-11-9, 34-11-11, 34-11-12, 34-11-16, 34-11-30, 34-11-31, 34-11-34, 34-11-36, 23 24 and 34-11-37, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the practice 25 of engineering and land surveying; to require that certain 26 applicants for licensure pass a board-approved examination in

lieu of an eight hour written examination; to delete certain

1 expired provisions; to provide for a combined application and 2 licensure fee not exceeding \$200; to authorize the board to contract with an independent agency testing to delete the 3 specific authorization for joint practice; to delete the requirement that the names and addresses of all officers and 5 6 board members of a corporation be filed with the board; to 7 increase the disciplinary penalties from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per 8 violation; to revise the appointment process, membership of 9 the board, and qualifications of board members; to provide 10 that a simple majority of board members is a quorum; and to 11 increase the percentage of the budget of the board from the 12 previous year that may remain in the Professional Engineers 13 and Land Surveyors Fund, and not be transferred to the State 14 General Fund, from 25 percent to 33 percent.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 34-11-1, 34-11-2, 34-11-3, 34-11-4, 34-11-5, 34-11-6, 34-11-8, 34-11-9, 34-11-11, 34-11-12, 34-11-16, 34-11-30, 34-11-31, 34-11-34, 34-11-36, and 34-11-37 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

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"For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the respective meanings ascribed by this section:

"(1) BOARD. The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, provided for by Section 34-11-30.

"(2) ENGINEER INTERN. A person who has qualified under subdivision (2) of Section 34-11-4, and who, in addition, has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects as provided in Section 34-11-6, and who has been certified by the board as an engineer intern.

- "(3) ENGINEER or PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. A person who, by reason of his or her special knowledge of the mathematical and physical sciences and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design, acquired by engineering education and engineering experience, is qualified to practice engineering as hereinafter defined and has been licensed by the board as a professional engineer.
- "(4) LAND SURVEYOR INTERN. A person who has qualified under subdivision (4) of Section 34-11-4, has passed an a board-approved examination in the fundamental land surveyor intern subjects, pursuant to this chapter, and who has been certified by the board as a land surveyor intern.
- "(5) LAND SURVEYOR or PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR. A person who has been duly licensed as a professional land surveyor by the board established under this chapter, and who is a professional specialist in the technique of measuring land, is educated in the principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, the relevant requirements of law for adequate evidence and all requisites for surveying of real property, and is qualified to practice land surveying as defined in subdivision (8).

shall be construed to practice or offer to practice
engineering or land surveying, within the meaning and intent
of this chapter, who offers to or does as a profession
practice any branch of engineering or land surveying; or who
by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in
any other way represents himself or herself to be a
professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, or
through the use of some other title implies that he or she is
a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor; or
who represents himself or herself as able to perform or who
does perform any engineering or land surveying service or work
or any other service designated by the practitioner which is
recognized as engineering or land surveying.

"(7) PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING. Any professional service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, performing engineering surveys and studies, and the review of construction or other design products for the purpose of monitoring compliance with drawings and specifications; any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with any utilities, structures,

buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems,

projects, and industrial or consumer products; equipment of a

control, communications, computer, mechanical, electrical,

hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they

involve safeguarding life, health, or property; and including

other professional services necessary to the planning,

progress, and completion of any engineering services.

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in qualifying a witness to offer expert testimony on the practice of engineering, the court shall consider as evidence of his or her expertise whether the proposed witness holds a valid Alabama license for the practice of engineering. Provided, however, such qualification by the court shall not be withheld from an otherwise qualified witness solely on the basis of the failure of the proposed witness to hold such valid Alabama license.

"a. Design coordination includes the review and coordination of those technical submissions prepared by others, including, as appropriate and without limitations, consulting engineers, architects, landscape architects, land surveyors, and other professionals working under the direction of the engineer.

"b. Engineering surveys include all survey activities required to support the sound conception, planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of engineered projects, rights-of-way, and easement acquisitions relative to the centerline of the project. Engineering surveys may be used

1 to locate, relocate, establish, reestablish, layout, or 2 retrace any road, right-of-way, easement, or alignment relative to the centerline of the project. Additionally, 3 4 engineering surveys may be performed to determine areas, volumes, or physical features of the earth, elevation of all 5 6 real property, improvements on the earth, and the 7 configuration or contour of the surface of the earth or the position of fixed objects thereon by measuring lines and 8 angles and applying the principles of mathematics. All 9 10 engineering surveys shall exclude the surveying of real property for the establishment of any property line or land 11 12 boundaries, setting of corners or monuments, and the dependent 13 or independent surveys or resurveys of the public land survey 14 system.

"c. The term shall not include the practice of architecture except such architectural work as is incidental to the practice of professional engineering; nor shall the term include work ordinarily performed by persons who operate or maintain machinery or equipment.

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"d. The practice of engineering shall include the offering of expert opinion in any legal proceeding in Alabama this state regarding work legally required to be performed under an Alabama engineer's license number or seal, which opinion may be given by an engineer licensed in any jurisdiction.

"(8) PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING. Professional services, including, but not limited to, consultation, project

1 coordination, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, 2 mapping, assembling, and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, 3 shape, areas, volumes, or physical features of the earth, improvements on the earth, the space above the earth, or any 5 6 part of the earth, and the utilization and development of 7 these acts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project. Project coordination 8 shall include the coordination of those technical submissions 9 10 as prepared by others. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, the practice of land surveying shall exclude 11 12 functions unique to engineering as specified by rules of the 13 board. The practice of land surveying shall include, but is 14 not limited to, any one or more of the following:

"a. Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, lays out, or retraces any property line or boundary of any tract of land or any road, right-of-way, easement, alignment, or elevation of all real property whether or not fixed works are sited or proposed to be sited on the property.

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"b. Makes any survey for the subdivision of any tract of land or for condominiums.

"c. Determines, by the use of the principles of land surveying, the position for any survey, monument, or reference point; or sets, resets, or replaces any such monument or reference point.

"d. Determines the configuration or contour of the surface of the earth or the position of fixed objects thereon

by measuring lines and angles and applying the principles of
mathematics or photogrammetry.

"e. Geodetic surveying which includes surveying for determination of the size and shape of the earth both horizontally and vertically and the precise positioning of points on the earth utilizing angular and linear measurements through spatially oriented spherical geometry.

"f. Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data, including land information systems and geographic land information systems, relative to the performance of the activities in paragraphs a. to e., inclusive.

"(9) RESPONSIBLE CHARGE. Direct control and personal supervision of engineering work or land surveying work.

"§34-11-2.

- "(a) No person in either public or private capacity shall practice or offer to practice engineering or land surveying, unless he or she shall first have submitted evidence that he or she is qualified so to practice and shall be licensed by the board as hereinafter provided or unless he or she is specifically exempted from licensure under this chapter.
- "(b) In order to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare, the practice of engineering in this state is a learned profession to be practiced and regulated as such, and its practitioners in this state shall be held accountable to the state and members of

the public by high professional standards in keeping with the ethics and practices of the other learned professions in this state. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice engineering in this state, as defined by this chapter, or to use in connection with his or her name or otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description including, but not limited to, the terms engineer, engineers, engineering, professional engineer, professional engineers, professional engineering, P.E., or any modification or derivative thereof, tending to convey the impression that he or she is a professional engineer unless the person has been duly licensed or is exempt from licensure under this chapter. A person whose firm name shall have contained the word "engineer," "engineers," or "engineering," or words of like import, for more than 15 years before September 12, 1966, shall not be prohibited from continuing the use of such word or words in his or her firm name.

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"(c) In order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, the practice of land surveying in this state is a learned profession to be practiced and regulated as such, and its practitioners in this state shall be held accountable to the state and members of the public by high professional standards in keeping with the ethics and practices of the other learned professions in this state. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice land surveying in this state, as defined by this chapter, or to use in connection with his or her name or

otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description including, but not limited to, the terms land surveyor, land surveyors, land surveying, professional land surveyor, professional land surveyors, professional land surveying,

P.L.S., or any modification or derivative thereof, tending to convey the impression that he or she is a professional land surveyor unless the person has been duly licensed or is exempt from licensure under this chapter.

- "(d) As used in this subsection, the term professional land surveyor shall include the agents, the employees, and any personnel under the supervision of a professional land surveyor.
- "(1) A professional land surveyor may go on, over, and upon the lands of others which is not enclosed by any device installed to deter entry to or exit from industrial facilities or plant sites by humans or vehicles, if necessary to perform surveys for the location of section corners, quarter corners, property corners, boundary lines, rights-of-way, and easements, and may carry and utilize equipment and vehicles. Entry under the right granted in this subdivision shall not constitute trespass. A professional land surveyor shall not be liable to arrest or to a civil action for trespass by reason of this entry.
- "(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as giving authority to a professional land surveyor to destroy, injure, damage, or move anything on the lands of another without the written permission of the landowner and

- nothing in this section shall be construed as removing civil liability for the damages.
- "(3) A professional land surveyor shall make

  reasonable effort to notify adjoining landowners upon whose

  land it is necessary to enter.
  - "(4) No owner or occupant of the land shall be liable for any injury or damage sustained by any person entering upon his or her land under this subsection.
- 9 "(5) Nothing in this subsection shall limit the 10 rights of condemning authorities under Sections 18-1A-50 to 11 18-1A-55, inclusive.
- 12 "\$34-11-4.

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- "The board may approve engineering, land surveying, and related science programs which shall be accepted under the following criteria:
  - "(1) PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional engineer:
    - "a. Graduation and experience plus examination.
    - "1. Graduation in an approved engineering curriculum plus four years experience. A graduate of an approved engineering curriculum of four years or more from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed the eight-hour written board-approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects and who has a specific record of an additional four years or more of progressive experience

in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the principles and practice of engineering. Upon passing this examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice engineering in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"2. Graduation in an unapproved engineering curriculum plus six years experience. A graduate of an unapproved engineering curriculum of four years or more who has successfully passed the eight-hour written board-approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects and who has a specific record of an additional six years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the principles and practice of engineering. Upon passing this examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice engineering in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"b. Comity. The board may, upon application, issue a certificate of licensure as a professional engineer to any person who holds a valid professional engineering certificate issued by any jurisdiction of the United States or of any country; provided, that the education, experience, and examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that

specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama this state at the time such certificate was issued. The board may authorize an applicant to practice engineering on a temporary basis upon issuance of an interim permit which shall remain in effect until the board acts upon the application.

The interim permit may be issued upon submission of documentation and a fee which shall be established by the board, not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50).

"(2) ENGINEER INTERN. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for certification as an engineer intern:

"a. Graduation and examination. A graduate of an approved engineering curriculum of four years or more from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects shall be certified as an engineer intern, if otherwise qualified.

"b. Graduation and examination plus experience.

Graduation in an unapproved engineering curriculum plus two years experience. A graduate of an unapproved engineering curriculum of four years or more who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamental engineering subjects and who has a specific record of two years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be certified as an engineer intern, if otherwise qualified.

"c. Comity. The education, experience, and examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama this state at the time such certificate was issued.

Fundamentals of engineering examinations of comparable character taken and passed in another jurisdiction may be

accepted by the board.

"(3) PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional land surveyor.

"a. Graduation and experience plus examination.

"1. Graduation in an approved land surveying curriculum plus four years experience. A graduate of an approved land surveying curriculum of four years or more including a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects and who has a specific record of an additional four years or more of combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to a six-hour written board-approved examination in the principles and practice of land surveying and a two-hour written board-approved examination on laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in

Alabama this state. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land surveying, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

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"2. Graduation in an approved curriculum related to surveying plus six years experience. A graduate of a curriculum related to surveying of four years or more including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board and who has successfully passed the eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects and who has a specific record of an additional six years or more of progressive office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to a six-hour board-approved examination in the principles and practice of land surveying and a two-hour written board-approved examination of laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in Alabama this state. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"3. Graduation in a related science curriculum plus eight years experience. A graduate of a related science curriculum of four years or more from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed the eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the

fundamental land surveying subjects and who has a specific record of an additional eight years or more of progressive combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to a six-hour board-approved examination in the principles and practice of land surveying and a two-hour written board-approved examination of laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in Alabama this state. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"b. Experience plus examination. Before December 31, 2007, an applicant who has a specific record of eight years or more of combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to an eight-hour written examination in the fundamentals of land surveying, and after passing the fundamentals examination shall be admitted to a six-hour written examination in the principles and practice of land surveying and a two-hour written examination on laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in Alabama. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"c.b. Comity. The board may, upon application, grant to any person who holds a valid professional land surveying

certificate issued by any jurisdiction of the United States or of any country, admission into a two-hour written board-approved examination of laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in Alabama this state, provided that the education, experience, and examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama this state at the time such certificate was issued. Upon passing the examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

"(4) LAND SURVEYOR INTERN. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for certification as a land surveyor intern:

- "a. Graduation plus examination. Graduation in an approved land surveying curriculum. A graduate of a land surveying curriculum of four years or more including a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamentals of land surveying shall be certified as a land surveyor intern, if otherwise qualified.
  - "b. Graduation and examination plus experience.
- "1. Graduation in an approved curriculum related to surveying plus two years experience. A graduate of a

curriculum related to surveying of four years or more including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamentals of land surveying and who has a specific record of an additional two years or more of combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be certified as a land surveyor intern, if otherwise qualified.

"2. Graduation in a related science curriculum plus four years experience. A graduate of a related science curriculum of four years or more who has successfully passed an eight-hour written a board-approved examination in the fundamentals of land surveying and who has a specific record of an additional four years or more of combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be certified as a land surveyor intern, if otherwise qualified.

"c. Comity. The education, experience, and examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama this state at the time such certificate was issued. The board may accept fundamentals of land surveying examinations of comparable character taken and passed in another jurisdiction.

"(5) CHARACTER. No person shall be eligible for
licensure as a professional engineer, certification as an
engineer intern, licensure as a professional land surveyor, or
certification as a land surveyor intern who is not of good
character and reputation.

- "(6) TEACHING CREDITS. In considering the qualifications of applicants, teaching in an engineering curriculum approved by the board may be considered as engineering experience. Teaching land surveying subjects in a land surveying curriculum approved by the board may be considered as land surveying experience.
- "(7) GRADUATE STUDY. In counting years of experience for professional engineer licensure, the board may give credit, not in excess of one year, for successful completion of graduate study leading to a master's degree in engineering. If a Ph.D. in engineering is completed, a total of two year's years' experience may be credited. The two-year credit shall include one year for the master's degree. If the Ph.D. is obtained without the master's degree, the credit for experience shall be two years. In counting years of experience for professional land surveyor licensure, the board may give credit, not in excess of one year, for successful completion of graduate study leading to a master's degree in land surveying. If a Ph.D. in land surveying is completed, a total of two years' experience may be credited. The credit of two years shall include one year for the master's degree. If the

- Ph.D. is obtained without the master's degree, the credit for experience shall be two years.
  - "(8) NONPRACTICING APPLICANTS. Any person having the necessary qualifications prescribed in this chapter to entitle the applicant to licensure shall be eligible for licensure although the applicant may not be practicing engineering or land surveying at the time of making application.
  - "(9) RECOGNITION OF PREVIOUSLY TAKEN EXAMINATIONS.

    The board may accept fundamentals and principles and practice examinations of comparable character taken and passed in another jurisdiction.

"§34-11-5.

"(a) Applications for licensure as a professional engineer, professional land surveyor, engineer intern, or land surveyor intern shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the board and shall contain statements made under oath. Three or more of the references contained in an application for licensure as a professional engineer shall be professional engineers having personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience. Three or more of the references contained in an application for professional land surveyor shall be professional land surveyors having personal knowledge of the land surveying experience of the applicant. All references and experience verifications furnished shall be considered confidential records of the board. Any individual who was previously licensed in this state and whose license is eligible for reinstatement as outlined in subsection (a) of

Section 34-11-8 shall comply with the reinstatement procedures established by the board instead of the submission of a new application.

"(b) The application fee and, which shall include the licensure fee, for professional engineers or professional land surveyors shall be set by the board, and each fee shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) two hundred dollars (\$200), and shall accompany the application.

"(1) For professional engineers applying for licensure by way of comity, both the application fee and licensure fee shall accompany the application.

"(2) For professional engineers applying for licensure by way of examination and for professional land surveyors, the application fee shall accompany the application, and the licensure fee shall be due upon approval of licensure. If the applicant fails or refuses to remit the licensure fee within 30 days after being notified of successfully qualifying, the applicant shall forfeit the right to have a certificate so issued. For further consideration, the applicant shall be required to submit a new application and application fee.

- "(c) The application fee, which shall include the certification fee, for engineer interns and land surveyor interns shall be set by the board, shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50), and shall accompany the application.
- "(d) The fee for a certificate of authorization for a corporation, partnership, or firm shall be set by the board

and shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), and must accompany the application.

"(e) If the board denies certification or licensure to any applicant, or the certificate of authorization to any corporation, partnership, or firm, the fee paid shall be retained as an application fee.

**"**\$34-11-6.

- "(a) Examinations shall be held at such times and places as the board determines and upon payment of an examination fee.
- "(b) When examinations are required on fundamental subjects, the applicant shall be permitted to take this part of the professional examination as specified by rules of the board. A candidate failing an examination may apply for reexamination under guidelines established by the board.
- "(c) When examinations are required on applied subjects, the applicant shall be permitted to take this part of the professional examination as specified by guidelines established by the board. The scope of the examination and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the board with special reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise engineering or land surveying works so as to protect the safety of life, health, and property. Examinations shall be given for the purpose of determining the qualifications of applicants for licensure separately in engineering and in land surveying. A candidate failing an examination may apply for reexamination under guidelines established by the board.

"(d) The fees for examination, and reexamination, and administration of the examination on the laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in this state shall be set by the board and shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).

"(e) The board may contract with an independent testing agency to prepare, grade, or conduct the required examinations. For those examinations so designated by the board, the applicant shall pay the examination fees directly to the board-authorized testing agency. The examination fee for the examination on Alabama land surveying laws, procedures, and practices shall be paid directly to the board.

"(a) The board shall, by rule, establish a procedure for renewing certificates of licensure on an annual or a biennial basis. It shall be the duty of the executive director of the board to notify every person licensed under this chapter of the final date of the renewal of his or her license and the amount of the fee required for the renewal. The notice shall be mailed to the last address of the licensee recorded by the The executive director of the board shall notify the licensees at least one month in advance of the renewal deadline. Renewal may be accomplished at any time prior to or during the month of December by payment of the required fee. The board shall establish the renewal fee for each certificate of licensure issued pursuant to this chapter. The amount of the renewal fee shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars

(\$150) for annual renewal or three hundred dollars (\$300) for biennial renewal. Certificates of licensure for professional engineers and professional land surveyors shall lapse on the last day of the month of December, annually or biennially, unless renewed. The board shall, by rule, establish procedures including requirements, time limits, and the minimum continuing professional competency hours required for reinstating or reactivating a lapsed license. The board shall establish a reinstatement fee which shall be based on the period the license was lapsed. A lapsed license, if not reinstated, shall remain in a lapsed classification for a total of four years. Any license which has lapsed for more than four years shall not be eligible for reinstatement or reactivation and is expired.

"(1) Any individual whose license has lapsed for nonpayment of renewal fees shall continue to be subject to this chapter and board rules governing licenses until the licensure is revoked by action of the board or the license is not eligible for reinstatement under the rules of the board. A licensee who practices or offers to practice in this state with a lapsed, inactive, or retired license shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board.

"(2) No licensee shall have his or her license renewed unless, in addition to any other requirements of this chapter, the minimum annual or biennial continuing professional competency requirement is met. It is further provided that the continuing professional competency program

herein required shall not include testing or examination of the licensee in any manner. The board may, by rules, establish exemptions from the continuing professional competency requirement for retired licensees and others in extenuating circumstances as identified by rule of the board.

"(b) Enrollment as engineer interns and land surveyor interns shall expire on the last day of the month of December following their issuance or renewal. The notification to interns shall be processed as prescribed above for licensees except that the annual renewal fee shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10). The failure on the part of any intern to accomplish renewal shall not invalidate his or her status as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern, but his or her name shall, after 90 days, be removed from the current mailing list of the board. The fee to bring an enrollment current after a renewal expiration shall be twice that established for annual renewal.

"(c) Certificates of authorization issued to corporations, partnerships, or firms practicing or offering to practice engineering or land surveying under this chapter shall lapse on the last day of the month of January following their issuance or renewal, unless renewed. The amount of the renewal fee shall be set by the board and shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). It shall be the duty of the executive director of the board to notify every corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization under this chapter of the final date of renewal of the

certificate and the amount of the fee which shall be required for its renewal for one year. The notice shall be mailed by the The executive director to the last address recorded for shall notify the corporation, partnership, or firm at least one month in advance of the renewal deadline. Renewals may be accomplished at any time prior to or during the month of January by payment of the required fee. Failure by the corporation, partnership, or firm to renew its certificate of authorization prior to or during the month of January shall cause the certificate to lapse, and it shall be unlawful for the corporation, partnership, or firm to practice, offer to practice, or hold itself out as qualified to practice engineering or land surveying in Alabama this state following the lapse of its certificate of authorization. The board shall, by rules, establish procedures and time limits for reactivating a certificate of authorization and the reinstatement fees which shall be based on the period the certification was lapsed. A firm, partnership, or corporation whose certificate of authorization has lapsed for nonpayment of renewal fees shall continue to be subject to this chapter and the rules of the board governing licenses until the certificate of authorization is revoked by action of the board or the certificate of authorization is no longer renewable under the rules of the board. If not reinstated, a lapsed certificate of authorization shall remain in a lapsed classification for a period of two years. Any certificate of authorization which has been lapsed for more than two years

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shall not be eligible for reinstatement or reactivation and is expired.

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"(a) Services offered to the public; certificate of authorization required.

"(1) ENGINEERING OR LAND SURVEYING SERVICES. The practice of or offer to practice engineering and land surveying as defined in Section 34-11-1 by individual professional engineers or professional land surveyors licensed under this chapter through a corporation, partnership, or firm offering engineering services or land surveying services to the public through individual licensed professional engineers or professional land surveyors, as agents, employees, officers, or partners, is permitted subject to this chapter and one or more of the principal officers of the corporation, firm, or partners of the partnership and all personnel of the corporation, partnership, or firm who act in its behalf as professional engineers or professional land surveyors in this state are licensed as provided by this chapter, or are persons lawfully practicing under Section 34-11-14 and the corporation, partnership, or firm has been issued a certificate of authorization by the board as provided herein. All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or other engineering or land surveying papers or documents involving the practice of engineering or land surveying as defined in Section 34-11-1 of this chapter which shall have been prepared or approved for the use of such corporation, partnership, or

firm or for delivery to any person or for public record within the state shall be dated and bear the signature and seal of the professional engineer or professional land surveyor who prepared or approved them. Nothing in this section should be construed to mean that a certificate of licensure to practice engineering or land surveying shall be held by a corporation, partnership, or firm.

"(2) JOINT PRACTICE AUTHORIZED. Nothing in this section prohibits an individual, corporation, firm, or partnership from joining together to practice, offering to practice, or holding themselves out as qualified to practice engineering or land surveying provided that the individual, corporation, firm, or partnership meets the requirements of this section.

"(3)(2) LIABILITY GENERALLY. No corporation, firm, or partnership shall be relieved of responsibility for the conduct or acts of its agents, employees, officers, or partners by reason of its compliance with this section, nor shall any individual practicing engineering or land surveying as defined in Section 34-11-1 be relieved of responsibility for work performed by reason of employment, association, or relationship with the corporation, partnership, or firm.

"(4)(3) APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION. A corporation, partnership, or firm desiring a certificate of authorization shall file with the board an application upon a form to be prescribed by the board and the designation required by subdivision (5)(4), accompanied by

the licensure fee prescribed by subsection (d) of Section 34-11-5.

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"(5)(4) RESIDENT LICENSEE. Every firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity which performs or offers to perform engineering or land surveying services shall have a resident licensed professional engineer or land surveyor in responsible charge of the engineering or land surveying work for each separate office or branch office in which engineering or land surveying services are performed or offered to be performed. The board shall issue rules to ensure adequate engineering supervision and surveying supervision of all work.

"+(6) (5) FILING NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS, ETC., REQUIRED. A corporation or firm shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all officers and board members of the corporation or firm including the principal officer or officers duly licensed to practice engineering or land surveying in this state, who shall be in responsible charge of the practice or offering to practice of engineering or land surveying in this state by the corporation or firm and of the individual or individuals designated as the responsible engineer or land surveyor of each branch office offering or performing Alabama engineering or land surveying in this state. A partnership shall file with the board using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all partners, including the partner or partners duly licensed to practice engineering or land surveying in this state, and also of an individual or

individuals duly licensed to practice engineering or land surveying in this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of engineering or land surveying in this state at the branch offices of the partnership. The same form, giving the same information, shall accompany the annual renewal fee prescribed in subsection (c) of Section 34-11-8. In the event there is a change in the firm name or in any of the partners or principal officers during the year, the changes shall be filed with the board by the corporation, partnership, or firm within 30 days after the effective date of the change.

"(7)(6) ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION;
SUSPENSION; REVOCATION. If all the requirements of this
section are met, the board shall issue to the corporation,
partnership, or firm a certificate of authorization. The board
may refuse to issue a certificate, if any facts exist which
would entitle the board to suspend or revoke an existing
certificate. Any person aggrieved by an adverse determination
of the board may appeal to the circuit court in the manner
provided in Section 34-11-13.

"(8)(7) CERTIFICATE REQUIRED OF ORGANIZATION

OPERATING UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME. For the purposes of this section, a certificate of authorization shall be required by a corporation, partnership, firm, association, or person practicing under a fictitious name, offering engineering or land surveying services to the public. Where a licensee is practicing engineering or land surveying in his or her own

given name, the licensee shall not be required to qualify under this section.

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"(b) Incidental engineering or land surveying services; certificate of authorization not required. The practice of engineering or land surveying incidental to or in connection with production, manufacture, transportation, distribution, or communication may be carried on by any person, partnership, firm, or corporation engaged in such production, manufacture, transportation, distribution, or communication and will not require a certificate of authorization. The engineering and land surveying services shall be performed by or under the direction of a professional engineer or professional land surveyor licensed in conformity with this chapter. All drawings, plans, specifications, plats, and reports involving the practice of engineering or land surveying shall when issued be dated and bear the seal or facsimile of the seal, signature, and licensure number of the professional engineer or land surveyor in responsible charge thereof.

"\$34-11-11.

"(a) The board shall have the power to reprimand, censure, place on probation, or fine any licensee or certified engineer intern or land surveyor intern or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization and to suspend, refuse to renew, or revoke the certificate of any licensee or certified engineer intern or land surveyor

intern or the certificate of authorization of a corporation,
partnership, or firm found guilty of any of the following:

- "(1) The practice of any fraud or deceit in obtaining or attempting to obtain or renew a certificate of licensure or certificate of authorization.
  - "(2) Any gross negligence, incompetency, violation of the rules of professional conduct prescribed by the board, or any amendment thereof, or misconduct in the practice of engineering or land surveying as a professional engineer, engineer intern, professional land surveyor, or land surveyor intern.
  - "(3) Falsely representing himself or herself as being in responsible charge of engineering work or land surveying.
  - "(4) Permitting his or her seal, or facsimile thereof, to be used by another.
  - "(5) An offense in another jurisdiction resulting in revocation, suspension, or voluntary surrender, to avoid disciplinary proceedings, of a license or certificate of licensure, including any agreement or stipulation executed by a licensee to avoid formal disciplinary proceedings.
  - "(b) The board shall have the power to impose any or all of the disciplinary penalties set forth in this section against a corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization, when any one or more of the agents, employees, officers, partners, or owners of the corporation, partnership, or firm, licensed or nonlicensed,

have committed any act, or have been guilty of any conduct, which could authorize the imposition of any of the disciplinary penalties set forth in this section. The acts or conduct by the persons must have been related to the practice of or offer to practice of engineering or land surveying by the corporation, partnership, or firm and that the acts or conduct must have been performed or occurred within the scope of the employment of any such person and with the authorization, ratification, or approval of an officer, director, principal, partner, or owner of the corporation, partnership, or firm.

"(c) Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of this section against any individual licensee, certified intern, or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization. The complaints shall be in writing and shall be filed with the executive director of the board.

"(d) The board may designate a person or persons to investigate and report to it on any matter related to its lawful duties and may employ legal counsel as the board may deem necessary or desirable. An investigation may be made upon receipt of a complaint or may be initiated by the board. The board may resolve violations by agreement between the board and the licensee with or without the filing of formal charges.

"(e) Following an investigation, charges may be filed against any individual licensee, certificated intern, or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of

authorization. The charges shall conform to the Administrative
Procedure Act.

- "(f) With the consent of the licensee, the board may conduct an informal hearing without meeting the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act at which no action shall be taken other than a reprimand, public or private.
  - "(g) All charges, unless dismissed by the board as unfounded or trivial, shall be heard by the board within a reasonable time.
  - "(h) The time and place for the hearing shall be fixed by the board, and a copy of the charges, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed to the last known address of the individual licensee, certified intern, or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization, at least 30 days before the date fixed for the hearing. At any hearing the accused individual licensee, certified intern, or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization shall have the right to appear personally and by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him, her, or them, and to produce evidence and witnesses in his or her or their own defense. If the accused fails or refuses to appear, the board may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.
  - "(i) If after the hearing three or more a majority of the deliberating members of the board vote in favor of finding the accused guilty, the board shall impose one or more

of the disciplinary penalties set forth in this section. Any fine imposed may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each count or separate offense. The written decision of the board shall be delivered personally to the accused or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the accused.

- "(j) If disciplinary action from a hearing results in imposing a fine against a licensee, certified intern, or certificated corporation, partnership, or firm, the board shall not renew the annual certificate for this licensee, certified intern, or certificated corporation, partnership, or firm until the fine is paid in full. In the event that the fine is subsequently set aside on judicial review, as provided in the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, the licensee, certified intern, or corporation, partnership, or firm holding a certificate of authorization shall be entitled to a prompt refund of the amount of the fine, but shall not be entitled to interest thereon.
- "(k) The board shall revoke the certificate of any licensee or certified intern who has been determined to be one of the following:
- "(1) Declared non compos mentis by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- "(2) Convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any crime under the laws of the United States or any state or territory thereof, which is a felony,

whether related to practice or not and convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any crime, whether a felony, misdemeanor, or otherwise, an essential element of which is dishonesty or which is directly related to the practice of engineering or land surveying.

"(1) When a member of the board is unable to continue the hearing either by disqualification or for any other reason, and the board is unable to reach a quorum, the Governor shall appoint as many ex officio members as is necessary to reach a quorum from a list of three persons submitted for each place by the <u>nominating</u> committee of seven as specified in Section 34-11-30. These ex officio members shall serve on the board only for that hearing for which they were appointed and they may be reappointed for subsequent hearings if necessary.

"(m) The licensee shall be responsible for the cost of the disciplinary action if found guilty.

"\$34-11-12.

"The board, for reasons it may deem sufficient, may reissue a certificate of licensure to any person or certificate of authorization to any corporation, partnership, or firm whose certificate has been revoked, provided three or more a majority of the deliberating members of the board vote in favor of reissuance. The board shall not consider reissuance of a certificate to any person whose certificate has been revoked because of non compos mentis until after the person has been declared to have fully regained his or her

competency by a court of competent jurisdiction. The board shall not consider the reissuance of a certificate to a person who was convicted of a felony or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony until the civil rights of the person have been restored, and then a unanimous approval vote of the board concerning reissuance shall be required. A new certificate to replace any certificate revoked, lost, destroyed, or mutilated or for any other reason may be issued, subject to the rules of the board, and a charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall be made for such issuance.

"§34-11-16.

- "(a) In addition to any other provisions of law, the board may enter an order assessing a civil penalty against any non-licensed person, corporation, or other entity found guilty by the board of, but not limited to, the following violations of this chapter.
- "(1) Engaging in the practice or offer to practice of engineering or land surveying in this jurisdiction without being licensed in accordance with this chapter.
- "(2) Using or employing the words "engineer,"
  "engineering," "land surveyor," "land surveying," or any
  modification or derivative thereof in its name or form of
  business activity, except as authorized in this chapter.
- "(3) Presenting or attempting to use the certificate of licensure or the seal of another licensed engineer or licensed land surveyor.

- "(4) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the board or a member of the board in obtaining or attempting to obtain a certificate of licensure.
  - "(5) Falsely impersonating another licensed engineer or licensed land surveyor of like or different name.
    - "(6) Using or attempting to use a revoked or non-existent certificate of licensure.

- "(b) The board shall determine the amount of the civil penalty which shall be paid to the State General Fund. The amount shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each and every separate offense.
- "(c) Before issuing an order under this section, the board shall provide the person written notice and the opportunity to request, within 30 days of notice by the board, a hearing on the record.
- "(d) Pursuant to the proceedings under this section, the board may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the disclosure of evidence, and may request the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce a subpoena.
- "(e) A person aggrieved by the levy of a civil penalty under this section may file an appeal to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County exclusively for judicial review of the penalty within 30 days notwithstanding the Administrative Procedure Act. Unless an appeal is taken, or the penalty paid,

the order of the board imposing the civil penalty shall become a judgment.

"(f) If a person fails to pay a civil penalty within 30 days after entry of an order pursuant to subsection (a) or if the order is stayed pending an appeal, within 10 days after the court enters a final judgement in favor of the board of an order appealed pursuant to subsection (e), the board shall notify the Attorney General. The Attorney General may commence a civil action to recover the amount of the penalty, plus attorney's fees and costs.

"(g) The cost to the board of the action shall be paid by the respondent if found in violation.

"\$34-11-30.

"(a) A State Board of Licensure for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors is created. It shall be the duty
of the board to administer this chapter. The board shall
consist of five professional engineers, and two professional
land surveyors, each of whom shall be appointed by the
Governor and two members of the public, who are neither
professional engineers or professional land surveyors. All
members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor.
Appointments to the professional engineer and professional
land surveyor positions on the board shall be from a list of
three persons nominated by a committee. To the extent
possible, the nominating committee and the Governor 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. Each member of the board, before beginning his or her term of office, shall file with the Secretary of State his or her written oath or affirmation for the faithful discharge of his or her official duties.

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"(b) The nominating committee shall consist of one professional engineer or professional land surveyor, respectively, appointed or elected by each of the professional organizations as outlined in the rules of the board. Any other organization in the state having membership qualifications comparable to those professional organizations outlined in the rules of the board may petition the board for membership on the committee. The board, by rule, may establish nominating committee operating guidelines and, by rule, may establish procedures for the removal of nonparticipating members of the nominating committee. Nominees shall have the qualifications required by Section 34-11-31. Nominations shall be made by a majority vote of the committee present at the same time at a meeting called by the executive director of the board, who shall advise the above named societies members of the nominating committee of the meeting at least 30 days before the meeting is held. Each member of the board, before beginning his or her term of office, shall file with the Secretary of State his or her written oath or affirmation for the faithful discharge of his or her official duties.

"(c) Members of the board shall serve staggered terms of five years. The members of the board shall continue

to serve under this chapter until their respective terms expire. On the expiration of the term of each member, the Governor shall in the manner provided in this section appoint for a term of five years a professional engineer or professional land surveyor having the qualifications required by Section 34-11-31 an individual to take the place of the member whose term on the board is about to expire. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, in the manner provided in this section, for the unexpired term. Each member shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which the member is appointed or until a successor is duly appointed and qualified.

"\$34-11-31.

"Each member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state, a. Each licensed professional engineer or licensed professional land surveyor who holds board member shall hold an unexpired certificate under this chapter, who has and shall have been engaged in the licensed to practice of engineering or land surveying, respectively, for at least 12 years, and who has been in responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying, respectively, work for at least five years.

"§34-11-34.

"The board shall hold at least two regular meetings each year. The two regular meetings of the board shall be held in the City of Montgomery, Alabama. The legal office of the board shall be located in the City of Montgomery. Special

meetings shall be held at the time and place as the rules of the board may provide. Notice of all meetings shall be given as the rules provide. The board shall elect or appoint annually the following officers: A chair, a vice chair, and a secretary. A quorum of the board shall consist of not less than three members a simple majority of the board membership.

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"The executive director of the board shall receive and account for all money derived under this chapter, and shall pay it monthly to the State Treasurer, who shall keep the money in a separate fund to be known as the "Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Fund. " The fund shall be kept separate and apart from all other money in the Treasury, and shall be paid out only by warrant of the Comptroller upon the Treasurer, upon itemized vouchers, approved by the executive director of the board. No funds shall be withdrawn or expended except as budgeted and allotted according to Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41. Any funds or money in the hands of the State Treasurer, known as the Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Fund, at the end of the state fiscal year in excess of that amount equal to  $\frac{25}{3}$  33 percent of the budget of the board for the previous fiscal year shall be transferred into the General Fund of the state. However, in the event that the board elects to implement a biennial license, then the above transfer into the General Fund shall only apply at the end of the non-license year of the biennial license cycle. The money,

properties, records, and other things of value owned by or allocated to the fund, the board, or the executive director of the board in his or her capacity as such, serving at the time of enactment of this chapter, shall become the property of and be allocated respectively to the fund, the board, or the executive director of the board under this chapter. The executive director of the board shall give a surety bond to the state in a sum as the board may determine. The premium on the bond shall be regarded as a proper and necessary expense of the board and shall be paid out of the fund. The executive director of the board shall receive a salary as determined by the board, in addition to compensation and expenses provided for in Section 34-11-32. The board may employ an executive director and, when necessary, an assistant executive director and fix their compensation and duties. The board may employ clerical or other assistants, subject to the provisions of the Merit System Act, and may make expenditures from the fund for any purpose which in the opinion of the board is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties under this chapter, including the expenses of the board's delegates to regional and national meetings of, and membership dues to, a national examination organization for engineers and land surveyors selected by the board and any of its subdivisions. Under no circumstances shall the total amount of warrants issued by the Comptroller in payment of the expenses and compensation provided for in this chapter exceed the amount

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provided therefor by the Legislature in the general appropriation or other appropriation bills.

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- "(a) The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and a register of all applications for licensure, which register shall show all of the following:
  - "(1) The name, age, and residence of each applicant.
- "(2) The date of the application.
  - "(3) The place of business of the applicant.
- "(4) The educational and other qualifications of the applicant.
  - "(5) Whether or not an examination was required.
    - "(6) Whether the applicant was rejected.
    - "(7) Whether a certificate of licensure was granted.
    - "(8) The date of the action of the board.
- "(9) Any other information deemed necessary by the board.
  - "(b) The board shall also keep on file a written statement under oath declaration from each applicant that he or she will abide by the rules of professional conduct prescribed by the board, which oath shall be a part of his or her application for licensure.
  - "(c) The records of the board shall be evidence of the proceedings of the board set forth therein, and a transcript thereof, duly certified by the executive director of the board under seal, shall be admissible in evidence with the same force and effect as if the original were produced.

"(d) Annually, as of September 30, the board shall
submit to the Governor a report of its transactions of the
preceding year and a complete statement of the receipts and
expenditures of the board, attested by affidavits of its chair
and its secretary.

"(e) Board records and papers of the following class are of a confidential nature and are not public records:

Examination material for examinations not yet given; file records of examination problems and solutions; exam scores; letters of inquiry and reference concerning applicants; transcripts of college courses and grades; board inquiry forms concerning applicants; pending and closed complaints and investigative files which shall remain confidential until an actual formal hearing may commence; and all other materials of like confidential nature."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.