

ARKANSAS ABSTRACTERS' BOARD

Enabling Laws

Act 128 of 2014
Act 109 of 1969 as amended.
See A.C.A. § 17-11-401

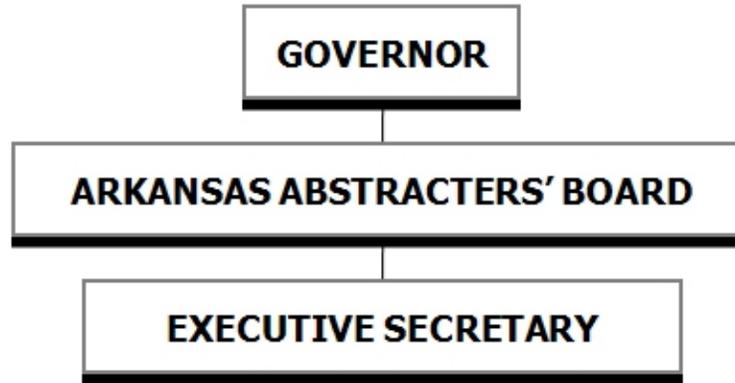
History and Organization

The Arkansas Abstracter's Board of Examiners was created by Act 109 of 1969. This Act established a three-member board, appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, to serve six (6) year terms. The terms are staggered so that one member is replaced every two years. Act 1042 of 2007 changed the name of the Board to the Arkansas Abstracters' Board. This act increases the number of board members from three to five.

Act 1042 of 2007 also provides that two of the board members shall be actively engaged in the making of abstracts to real estate titles in the State of Arkansas for a period of no less than five (5) years prior to their appointment. A third member shall be knowledgeable of the abstract business, and two members shall be at large.

The Arkansas Abstracters' Board is staffed with one (1) part-time employee, an Abstracter Secretary General. This Board is responsible for the proper supervision and renewal of some 100-125 firm licenses and more than 325 individual licenses on an annual basis. In addition, the Board schedules and administers a semi-annual examination to approximately 30 individuals, which is given in the April and October time frames each year. Also, the Board is responsible for the examination of the records of all new firms making application for license.

In addition, the Board is responsible for responding to complaints regarding possible unlicensed operations, etc. and scheduling hearings as needed to resolve the complaints. Enforcement of the provisions of A.C.A. § 17-11-201 is within the duties of this Board and periodic inspections may be made on a random basis to ensure compliance. Revocation of certificates of authority is within the jurisdiction of this Board when non-compliance is determined in a hearing before the Board, when requested by the licensee.



Agency Commentary

The Arkansas Abstracters’ Board has the responsibility to regulate and license both abstract companies and individual abstracters of real estate titles. Funding is derived from special revenues collected based on fees charged for licenses, examinations, and transfers. With the increased interest in mineral rights, we are expecting an increase in the demand for abstract licenses. Two additional board members were appointed during the 2007-2009 Biennium. The Board’s records and business have been maintained and conducted out of its one employee’s home.

The Board is requesting Base Level for the 2015 - 2017 Biennium.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 ARKANSAS ABTRACTOR'S BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Findings

Recommendations

The most recent audit report was not available at the time of printing.

State Contracts Over \$50,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2014

None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	1	1	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			1	100 %

Publications

A.C.A. 25-1-201 et seq.

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution	Unbound Black & White Copies Produced During the Last Two Years	Cost of Unbound Copies Produced During the Last Two Years
		Governor	General Assembly				
None	N/A	N	N	0	N/A	0	0.00

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2012 - 2013						FY2013 - 2014						FY2014 - 2015					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total		
1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %	1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %	1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 069 - Abstracter's Board-Operations

Funding Sources: SXA - Arkansas Abstracters' Board Fund

Act 109 of 1969 established a three member Abstracter's Board of Examiners. Act 1042 of 2007 increased the Board to five members. The Board has the responsibility to regulate and license both abstract companies and individual abstracters of real estate titles. The Board schedules and administers a semi-annual examination to individuals seeking certification as a registered abstracter. Over 300 individuals and 125 firm licenses are issued and renewed each year. Funding is derived from special revenues collected based on fees charged for licenses, examinations, and transfers.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching include continuation of the previously authorized 2015 1% Cost of Living Adjustment and Career Service Payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$10 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$420 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for Merit Pay Increases.

Agency's Base Level and total request is \$53,541 each year of the biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 069 - Abstracter's Board-Operations

Funding Sources: SXA - Arkansas Abstracters' Board Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
		2013-2014 Actual	2014-2015 Budget	2014-2015 Authorized	2015-2016			2016-2017		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	9,452	8,927	8,928	8,927	8,927	8,927	8,927	8,927	8,927
#Positions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal Services Matching	5010003	5,647	6,921	6,880	7,047	7,047	7,047	7,047	7,047	7,047
Operating Expenses	5020002	1,875	12,567	12,567	12,567	12,567	12,567	12,567	12,567	12,567
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	5060010	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		16,974	53,415	53,375	53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	83,609	80,453		40,838	40,838	40,838	1,097	1,097	1,097
Special Revenue	4000030	13,818	13,800		13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800
Total Funding		97,427	94,253		54,638	54,638	54,638	14,897	14,897	14,897
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(80,453)	(40,838)		(1,097)	(1,097)	(1,097)	38,644	38,644	38,644
Grand Total		16,974	53,415		53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541	53,541

FY15 Budget amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2013-2015 Biennium.
Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.