

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROF GEOLOGISTS

Enabling Laws

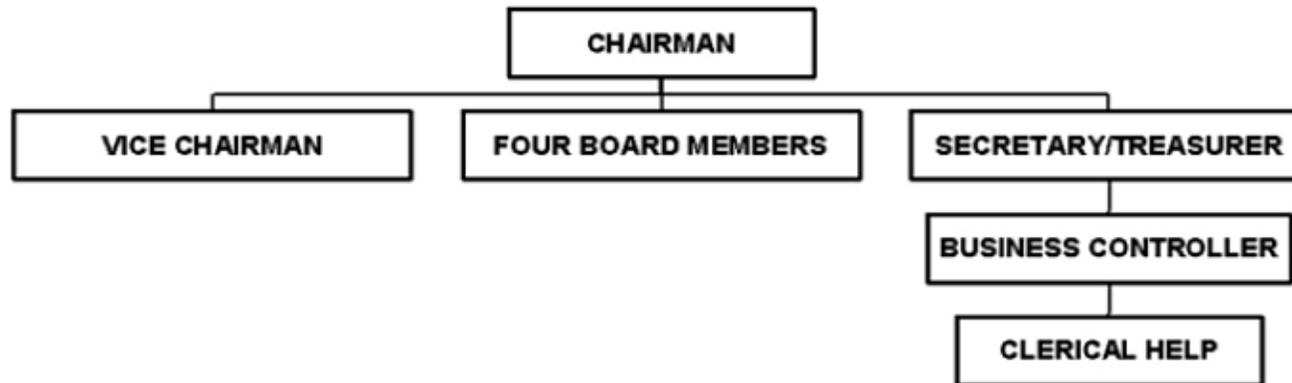
Act 46 of 2012
Act 701 of 1987 as amended
A.C.A. § 17-32-101 et seq.

History and Organization

Act 701 of 1987 established the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. The purpose of the Board is to oversee the practice of geology in the State of Arkansas in the public sector. The primary mission of the Board is to regulate such practice by registration and certification of qualified geologists and promulgate and enforce the regulations that provide the standards for practicing geology in Arkansas, in order to protect the public.

In 1988, the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, along with several other states, founded the National Association of State Boards of Geology.

The Board of Registration for Professional Geologists consists of seven members appointed by the Governor or set by the Act. Five members are registered geologists representing academia, government, a company, an independent or consultant and a geologist-at-large. One member is appointed for the public-at-large and the Director of the Arkansas Geological Survey is a permanent ex-officio member. The Board employs one individual, a Business Operations Specialist.



Agency Commentary

The Board of Registration for Professional Geologists has granted registration to 1970 geologists from 43 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Approximately 750 of those geologists have a current status. There are 3 temporary permits issued at this time. There is 1 (one) Geologist-in-Training application and 9 Professional Geologist applications awaiting review.

The Board is authorized to collect up to \$60 per year, per registrant in renewal fees. Other fees collected include a \$20 Geologist-in-Training renewal fee, a \$20 application processing fee, and a \$60 initial registration fee (covers the cost of the authorized seal and certificate.) In addition, the Board is allowed to collect penalty fees at the rate of 50% of the renewal fee for renewals submitted during the six-month penalty period. In the event a Registered Professional Geologist allows his/her registration to lapse, the Board charges a reinstatement fee that is double the annual renewal fee. Reinstatement requires Board approval.

Act 676 of 2005 granted the Board the authority to issue a temporary permit and collect up to \$600 for said permit. This permit allows geologists registered in other states to legally work in Arkansas for a period of no more than 365 days. Temporary permits do not require the entire registration process.

The Board currently rents office space at 501 Woodlane, Suite 105C, Little Rock, AR 72201. Revenue from registration and the other described fees support salaries, supplies, postage, telephone and Internet service, and participation in the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG.) This association (ASBOG) provides the competency examination required for registration.

Due to past and current economic conditions, the initial excess in the Boards fund has diminished. The Board is presently exploring every possible avenue for increasing income, including a slight increase in fees and/or locating an additional source(s) of revenue. In an effort to function within the limitations of the fund balance, the Board is requesting a reduction of \$1,500 per year in operating expenses for the 2013 - 2015 biennium.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

AUDIT OF :

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Findings

Recommendations

None

None

State Contracts Over \$25,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2012

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. 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Directory of Professional Geologists and GIT's Registered in Arkansas	A.C.A. 17-32-207	N	N	100	Public Record Publication and distribution is mandated by law.

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2010 - 2011						FY2011 - 2012						FY2012 - 2013					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	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: 851 - Cash Operations

Funding Sources: NEG - Cash in Treasury

The Board of Registration for Professional Geologists was created by Act 701 of 1987. The primary duty of the Board is to regulate the public practice of geology in the State of Arkansas by registration and certification of qualified geologists. The Board is a cash agency funded from application, registration, and renewal fees charged pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §17-32-307.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching includes Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$20 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$410 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases.

Agency receipts have not increased commensurately with operating expenses, and the board has routinely funded operations with declining fund balances. The Board is exploring measures to reduce operating expenses as well as reviewing the board's fee structure.

The Agency's Change Level Request reflects a reduction of \$1,500 each year in Operating Expenses. The reduction in office supplies budget reduces the Agency's appropriation to a level supported by projected funding.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request and reduces Operating Expenses an additional \$5,375 each year. The Executive Recommendation also transfers the Agency Request for appropriation and positions established for this Agency to the Arkansas Geological Survey.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 851 - Cash Operations
Funding Sources: NEG - Cash in Treasury

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item	Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
	2011-2012 Actual	2012-2013 Budget	2012-2013 Authorized	2013-2014			2014-2015		
				Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	37,505	36,059	36,059	36,059	36,059	0	36,159	36,159	0
#Positions	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Extra Help 5010001	2,970	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0
#Extra Help	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Personal Services Matching 5010003	12,696	12,804	12,065	13,068	13,068	0	13,089	13,089	0
Operating Expenses 5020002	23,273	21,650	21,650	21,650	20,150	0	21,650	20,150	0
Conference & Travel Expenses 5050009	1,993	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0
Professional Fees 5060010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	78,437	75,513	74,774	75,777	74,277	0	75,898	74,398	0

Funding Sources									
Fund Balance 4000005	117,642	83,271		59,358	59,358	0	28,581	30,081	0
Cash Fund 4000045	44,066	51,600		45,000	45,000	0	45,000	45,000	0
Total Funding	161,708	134,871		104,358	104,358	0	73,581	75,081	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(83,271)	(59,358)		(28,581)	(30,081)	0	2,317	(683)	0
Grand Total	78,437	75,513		75,777	74,277	0	75,898	74,398	0

FY13 Budget amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2011-2013 biennium.
The Executive Recommendation is to transfer the Agency Request for the positions and appropriation associated with this agency to the Arkansas Geological Survey.

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: 851 - Cash Operations
Funding Sources: NEG - Cash in Treasury

Agency Request

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	75,777	1	75,777	100.0	75,898	1	75,898	100.0
C03	Discontinue Program	(1,500)	0	74,277	98.0	(1,500)	0	74,398	98.0

Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	75,777	1	75,777	100.0	75,898	1	75,898	100.0
C03	Discontinue Program	(1,500)	0	74,277	98.0	(1,500)	0	74,398	98.0
C07	Agency Transfer	(68,902)	(1)	5,375	7.1	(69,023)	(1)	5,375	7.1
C19	Executive Changes	(5,375)	0	0	0.0	(5,375)	0	0	0.0

Justification

C03	The Board is requesting a reduction of \$1,500 each year in operating expenses to adjust budget to projected funds.
C07	The Executive Recommendation is to transfer the positions and appropriation established for this Agency to the Arkansas Geological Survey.
C19	Executive Recommendation provides for a reduction of \$5,375 each year due to rent expenses that will no longer be needed. The office of the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists will now be housed with the offices of Arkansas Geological Survey.