

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF NCARB

### STATE REPORT

Board Name	Alabama Board for Registration of Architects
Architect Board Members (list names)	Emily Coe, Chair; Sted McCollough, Vice-Chair; Michael Chapman, Nolanda Hatcher; Dan Bennett; Jimmy Seay.
MBE's Name	Paula Pilgreen
Professions Regulated	Architects
No. of Active Architect Licensees/Registrants	In-State: 854 Out-of-state (reciprocal): 2468 Total: 3322
Regional Agenda	Is there a particular topic or issue that you or your board would like to discuss as an agenda item during the Region 3 meeting in March or June?
Golden Nugget	Share a brief description of something your board does particularly well, or information that might benefit the members of Region 3:  CE Audit process further improved by integration with new database. Specifically, CE Hours can be uploaded directly into the renewal application. This increased efficiency allows CE Audits to be completed prior to the license being renewed thus, eliminating disciplinary actions for CE Violations.

Legislative Issues:

State Issues/Activities:

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Board Name	Louisiana
Architect Board Members (list names)	David Brossett (President), John Cardone (Secretary), Michael Holly, Kristine Kobilá, Chris Elberson, Kevin Singh, Ron Blich
MBE's Name	Tyson Ducote
Professions Regulated	Architect
No. of Active Architect Licensees/Registrants	In-State: 1,247 Out-of-state (reciprocal): 2,129
Regional Agenda	Is there a particular topic or issue that you or your board would like to discuss as an agenda item during the Region 3 meeting in March or June? <b>Has the Southern Region done any long term planning lately to determine what Region 3 Board should be focused on?</b>
Golden Nugget	Share a brief description of something your board does particularly well, or information that might benefit the members of Region 3: <b>We do a couple of things well. #1 We do strategic planning for short and long term to help guide our day to day work. This helps keep us focused on what matters most. #2 We do regular bench marking of various items within our region states and nationally as well so we can take advantage of best practices and stay balanced.</b>

**Legislative Issues:**

Act 104 of 2024 will take effect on July 1, 2025, severely limiting the architectural work that civil engineers can perform in the state. This Act limits the practice of architecture by civil engineers to Factory and Industrial (occupant load shall be unlimited), Storage (occupant load shall be unlimited), High Hazard (occupant load shall be <=299), and Utility and Miscellaneous (occupant load shall be <=299).

State Issues/Activities:

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Board Name	Mississippi State Board of Architecture
Architect Board Members (list names)	Charles C. Barlow, Jr., President Richard H. McNeel, Secretary/Treasurer Larry W. Bishop Leigh Jaunsen Bradford A. Jones
MBE's Name	John Cothron
Professions Regulated	Architects, Landscape Architects (through an advisory committee), Certified Interior Designers (through an advisory committee)
No. of Active Architect Licensees/Registrants	In-State: 359 Out-of-state (reciprocal): 1,476
Regional Agenda	Is there a particular topic or issue that you or your board would like to discuss as an agenda item during the Region 3 meeting in March or June? No.
Golden Nugget	Share a brief description of something your board does particularly well, or information that might benefit the members of Region 3: Our Board regularly attends meetings of the state building officials' association, which we have found to be very beneficial. This provides us with a forum to offer updates and presentations and assists in maintaining lines of communication with building officials in the state. Our investigator and MBE usually attend, occasionally accompanied by a Board member.

Legislative Issues:

HB 669 will amend our law to allow landscape architects to have up to 1/3 ownership interest in a firm offering architectural services and to remove restrictions on the practice of architecture through a business corporation or limited liability company (LLC). This legislation passed in the House last year but died in committee in the Senate. We're hopeful it will pass in both houses this year.

HB 1166 would have placed review of construction documents for high-rise buildings (not less than 75 feet in height) under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO). This legislation was the result of a meeting last year with representatives from the SFMO, the ICC, and the State Building Code Council to discuss improvement of codes enforcement in the state. Unfortunately, the bill died in the House.

HB 608 makes extensive changes to the Engineers & Surveyors law, including amending the definition of the "practice of engineering" to include "the engineering design of buildings" (which is taken from the NCEES *Model Law*). The Board of Architecture has expressed concern that the definition is ambiguous and has met with representatives of the Professional Engineers & Surveyors Board to discuss various options to address this concern.

SB 2275 creates a State Task Force for Agency Reorganization to study the organizational structure of the executive branch and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by October 1, 2026. It also requires recommendations for the implementation of shared services plans for regulatory boards and other agencies.

State Issues/Activities:

Rule changes took effect last November to, among other things, allow a non-resident architect, who is not registered in Mississippi but is registered in another state, to serve as a consultant to an architect registered in Mississippi if all construction documents and specifications are prepared under the responsible control of and are signed and sealed by the Mississippi-registered architect, and to amend the responsible control requirements to address the use by an architect of third-party off-site drafting services, which is allowed if certain criteria are met. The latter change was in part a response to our Secretary of State's "Tackle the Tape/29 by 29" initiative to review all licensing board regulations.