



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA LICENSURE BOARD
FOR
INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLITERATORS

Bob Riley
Governor

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**ALBIT Notice to Licensees
December, 2008**

Due to the low number of licenses (approximately 200), ALBIT is unable to generate enough income through current fees to adequately fund the board. Specifically, these fees generate approximately \$10,000 annually and a minimum budget of \$40,000 annually is required for ALBIT to accomplish its mission to protect consumers of interpreting & transliterating services for the deaf and speech impaired. This has been a consistent issue throughout the board's ten year history. The following steps have been taken by the board to try to remedy this situation without raising fees:

- The board worked to secure outside funding through grants and contributions. This search for funding resulted in an agreement with the Public Service Commission for funding in the amount of \$40,000 annually. However, this funding has now been denied due to funding now being provided to Troy University's new Interpreter Training Program. The board has met with and written the PSC to plead our case and the importance of funding the licensure program, but the PSC's denial of funds remains.
- The board has also researched other larger agencies to see if ALBIT could be absorbed under their umbrella, but found no agencies willing to assume these responsibilities.
- All costs have been cut as much as possible. Board Members themselves have administered the board out of their homes for most of ALBIT's history and waived their own mileage and per diem expenses.
- ALBIT released an Invitation to Bid for Administrative Services (to provide staff, office space, office furniture, and office equipment) and received a low bid of \$40,000 annually. This bid was further negotiated down to \$30,000 annually. Staff provided through the bid process has thirteen years of professional regulation experience and has a strong working knowledge of the numerous laws and procedures that a state board is required to comply with in Alabama. Therefore, ALBIT has used the initial grant from PSC in a cost effective and responsible manner by bidding, negotiating a lower bid, and ensuring staff is qualified as a professional regulator with a good reputation. All state boards are audited by the Examiners of Public Accounts every two years to ensure that all state government procedures are strictly adhered to and this requires an experienced administrator to reduce audit findings and provide for further continuance of the board.
- At the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee Meeting, ALBIT asked for direction from the committee. Senator Ted Little advised the board to meet with Senator Roger Bedford to discuss possible state funding. The board has met with Senator Roger Bedford and he agreed to work on this, but advised that this would require legislation and it is a bad time to ask for money with the budgeting difficulties the state is currently experiencing.

Having taken every possible avenue to locate outside funding and currently being unsuccessful, ALBIT is now left with no other choice but to raise fees. If the board cannot fund itself, the board will probably be discontinued by the Legislature. This means that the licensure law would be null and void, there would be no Interpreter and Transliterator Licenses, no protection for the deaf and speech impaired in Alabama, and no professional credential for Interpreters & Transliterator in Alabama. The following statutes apply:

Board Members:

Melvin Walker, Chair
Judith Gilliam, Vice Chair
Lisa Gould, Secretary
Ricky Holman
Cynthia Frey

Janice Hawkins
Ryan Marcopulos
Lori Pituk
Patti Sheets

Section 34-16-4 – Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators – Creation; composition; meetings; duties; compensation. (2) states, “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.”

Section 34-16-9 – Annual fee; fund. (a) states, “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.”

With this information, the board was left no other alternative and voted to raise fees as follows: License: \$175; and Permit: \$125. This is the minimum increase needed to operate the board on a budget of necessities only. The board will continue to work towards finding outside funding and we welcome your help in our endeavor. The board’s goal is to reduce these fees once funding is secured on a consistent basis.

The board will be accepting written comments regarding the fee increase until 4:30 p.m., February 19, 2009. Please send written comments to:

ALBIT
P.O. Box 240187
Montgomery, AL 36124
OR
Fax: 334.277.0188
OR
E-mail: brandyvanorden@gmail.com

Also, a public hearing regarding this fee increase is scheduled for February 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Montgomery, Alabama at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services located at 560 South Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 (1st Floor Conference Room).

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Control _____ Department or Agency: Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters & Translitterators

Rule No.: Chapter 488-X-1-.02

Rule Title: Fees

_____ New X Amend _____ Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly Harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's Police power and the protection of the public health, Safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation Available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services Involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public Than the harm that might result from the absence of The proposed rule? No

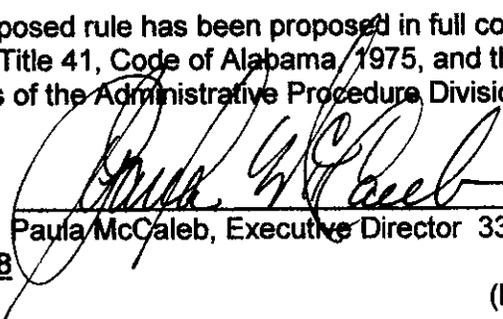
Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely For the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary Effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama, 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama, 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer 
Paula McCaleb, Executive Director 334.277.8881

Date: December 17, 2008

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters & Transliterators

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME:

Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters & Transliterators

RULE NO. & TITLE:

Chapter 488-X-1-.02

INTENDED ACTION:

To amend Rules and Regulations

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

To change the initial and renewal license fee to \$175 and the initial and renewal of permits to \$125.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

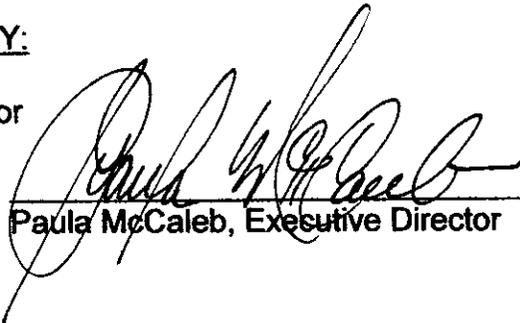
Written comments, views, or arguments will be received by the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters & Transliterators until 4:30 p.m. on February 19, 2009. Comments should be directed to Paula McCaleb, Executive Director, at P.O. Box 240187, Montgomery, AL 36124-0187, or via fax at 334-277.0188. A public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 20, 2009 at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services located at 560 South Lawrence Street; Montgomery, Alabama 36104 (1st Floor Conference Room).

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

February 20, 2009

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Paula McCaleb, Executive Director
334.277.8881



Paula McCaleb, Executive Director

488-X-1-.02**Fees.**

(1)	Nonrefundable fees are as follows:	
(a)	Application fee:	\$35.00
(b)	<u>Initial and Renewal fee for Licenses:</u>	\$50.00 <u>175.00</u>
(c)	<u>Initial and Renewal fee for Permits:</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>
(ed)	Returned check fee:	\$25.00
(de)	Late fee assessed on applications postmarked after March 15 th :	\$10.00
(ef)	Replacement of License or Permit:	\$7.00
(fg)	Upgrading of Educational Permit to Renewable Permit or Permit to License:	No charge
(gh)	Roster fee:	\$35.00

Authors: Belinda Montgomery, Charlene Crump

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-16-4.

History: New Rule: Filed June 11, 2002; effective July 16, 2002. Revised: Filed
December 17, 2008; Effective: February 20, 2008