

STATE LICENSING BOARD FOR CONTRACTORS

COMMERCIAL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (the "Board") was called to order by the Chairman, Lee Mallet, on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at 600 North Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members of the Board present:

Lee Mallet, Chairman
William J. Cloutre, Vice Chairman
Brian Bordelon
Noah Broussard
Courtney Davis
Kym DiGiovanni
Courtney Fenet, Jr.
August Gallo, Jr.
Steven Hackworth
Curtis Joseph
Donald G. Lambert
Garland Meredith
Joel Rushing
Elliott Temple

Members Kristen Brown, Andy Dupuy, Christopher Stuart, Keith Tillage, and Victor Weston were absent. There being a quorum present, the regular order of business began.

Mr. Joseph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Louisiana State University Construction Industry Advisory Council (LSU CIAC) presented their plans for further development of their program to the board.

Brad Hassert, Executive Director, gave a statement to the board providing an overview of the meeting agenda with discussion of board business matters, board resolutions to be presented for approval, and the plans of the agency.

Mr. Cloutre made a motion to hear matter E.1 out of agenda order. With a second by Mr. Joseph, the motion passed unanimously. Based on committee recommendations, Mr. Cloutre made a motion to approve the exemptions as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Joseph seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

No requests were received from the public to address the board.

Mr. Hassert introduced guests Tanika Starks and Amanda LaGroue from the Office of the State Attorney General.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hassert presented the following resolutions for discussion with the board and approval:

RESOLUTION 2024-07 as pertains to requesting a legal opinion from the Office of the State Attorney General. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Joseph and seconded by Mr. Temple. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-08 as pertains to the reinstatement of licenses/registrations summarily suspended. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Joseph and seconded by Mr. Rushing. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-09 as pertains to reciprocity. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Meredith and seconded by Mr. Joseph. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-10 as pertains to cease and desist orders. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Gallo and seconded by Mr. Joseph. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-11 as pertains to the suspension of licenses/registration for lapse of insurance. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Joseph and seconded by Mr. Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouatre led a discussion regarding the role of the board and hearing procedures and protocol.

Mr. Hassert led a discussion regarding reciprocity and its related statutes, procedures, protocol, and agency goals regarding such. Mr. Clouatre continued the discussion, further discussing classifications and testing, including exploring alternative options for testing. Ms. Janna Lege, Deputy Director, gave a statement regarding the difficulties contractors have faced in being required to test in person in Louisiana and conversations held between this agency and contractor boards and agencies of other states related to examinations.

Mr. Joseph made a motion to authorize staff to gather additional information and explore outsourcing examinations with a third-party vendor. Mr. Bordelon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.


Mr. Clouatre led a discussion regarding the authority and discretion of the board to waive examinations based on experience, letters of recommendation or endorsement, and letters of reference. Mr. Hassert and Mr. Mallet gave statements in furtherance of this discussion. Mr. Mallet requested a written recommendation for examination waiver criteria be presented to the board for a vote at the November 21, 2024, meeting.

Mr. Clouatre led a discussion regarding the Business and Law course in its current form of a video presentation being changed to a more comprehensive course with a written examination. Mr. Gallo made a motion to convert the Business and Law course to a required written examination with April 1, 2025, as the deadline for completion and implementation. Mr. Fenet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hassert presented a recommendation that the current \$10,000 net worth requirement for applicants be increased to \$50,000 for commercial and residential license applicants and be increased to \$25,000 for mold remediation and home improvement applicants. Mr. Clouatre made a motion to approve the recommendation to submit these statute changes to the legislature. Mr. Gallo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clouatre made a motion to adjourn at 12:42 p.m., and Mr. Broussard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Lee Mallett, Chairman



Elliott Temple, Secretary