



ALABAMA PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDING BOARD

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Special/Called Board Meeting

January 9, 2026

The Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board met on Tuesday, January 9, 2026 at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama for a special/called meeting. The following Board members were in attendance: Mr. Jimmie Lay (Board Chair), Ms. Jennifer Collard (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Carla Woodall (Board Secretary), Mr. Chris McNeil (member), Mr. Barry Johnson (member), Mr. Gustavus Maxie (member), and Mr. John Vaughn (member). Members absent were Judge Zack Moore (member) and Ms. Alexis Elloit (member). Others present at the meeting were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Tara Hetzel (Assistant Attorney General-Board Legal Counsel), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary) and guest.

Public notice of this special/called meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State www.sos.alabama.gov in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act and published on the Board's web site at www.apbb.alabama.gov.

Mr. Lay, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member roll and reported that a quorum was present to conduct Board business. Chairman Lay welcomed everyone attending the meeting and called for a moment of prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lay presented a copy of the January 9, 2026 meeting agenda for the Board's approval. He commented on the purpose of the called/special meeting to discuss proposed legislation to be presented during the current Legislative Session. A copy of the agenda was reviewed by the members.

MOTION: Mr. McNeil made a motion to approve the January meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved by the Board (agenda available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes).

LEGISLATION:

The Board discussed proposed changes concerning sections of the Alabama Bail Reform Act of 1993 and the Board's statute.

§ 15-13-160(b): A Professional bondsman and professional surety bondsman may not own a professional bondsman or professional surety bondsman for at least three years may not own professional surety company for at least three years. If the owner of a professional bail company dies or becomes completely incapacitated, as determined by the board. His or her professional bail bond company may be sold to an unlicensed individual. The unlicensed individual shall have 90 calendar days, from date of purchase, to obtain a license and shall employ a minimum of one employee who has been licensed for at least three consecutive years.

Mr. McNeil indicated that the proposed changes included consideration to close the loophole requiring a professional bondsman to have at least 3 years licensure experience in advance to owning a professional bail bond company and add requirements for a professional surety bondsman in § 15-13-160(b).

§ 15-13-201(2): EMPLOYEE. An individual who is employed by a professional bail company or professional surety company, either as an agent or direct subordinate, who negotiates, communicates written or verbal, or offers information about obtaining bail, bail bond prices, or any other information regarding the securing of a bail bond for another individual.

The Board discussed that an employee, by definition, would not be a janitor, bookkeeper, etc.

§ 15-13-202(c): An apprentice license shall only be issued once and any licensee who has possessed a license shall not receive an apprentice license. The board may verify the applicant's criminal history before the issuance of an apprentice license.

Before the expiration of his or her apprentice license, an apprentice who is 19 or 20 years of age, the license shall be renewed annually and shall complete an eight-hour continuing education instructional course conducted by an educational provider approved by Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board, at no cost to the apprentice.

(d) An apprentice may perform all duties without direct supervision, except for bail bond recovery agent work or the apprehension of a fugitive. An apprentice shall have his or her license available at all times.

The Board discussed that an individual who once held a professional license issued by the Board could not thereafter hold an apprentice license, and individuals under age 21 was required to renew their apprentice license annually and a criminal background performed prior to licensing as an apprentice.

§ 15-13-203(2): One serving, supernumerary or retired circuit, district, or municipal court judge, nominated by the Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed by the Governor from a list of four nominees.

(3) One serving supernumerary or retired circuit or municipal court clerk, nominated by the Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed by the governor from a list of four nominees.

(4) One serving sheriff, nominated by the Alabama Sheriff's Association and appointed by the Governor from a list of four nominees.

(5) One lay person, nominated by the Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed by the Governor from a list of four nominees.

Concerning the recommended changes to § 15-13-203, the Board considered discussions regarding the Alabama Clerk Association nominating clerks, similar to the Sheriff's Association nominating a sheriff to serve on the Board and the counter-consideration to include adding corporate surety bond restriction and grandfathering current bail bond companies operating with corporate surety bonds.

§ 15-13-205: At the initial meeting of the board and each time a new member is appointed to the board, the members of the board shall select from among their members a president chair to preside over meetings of the board, a vice president chair to preside in the absence of the president chair, and a secretary.

The Board discussed election of Board officers every four (4) years.

§ 15-13-210(b): Failure to submit a renewal application by September 30 shall result in a late fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

§ 15-13-211: (6) Has been a resident of this state for at least one year as provided by either of the following: a. A copy of the Alabama driver's license, or Alabama non driver's license, or voter registration card.

§ 15-13-160(b): A late fee shall be charged in the amount of the license fee. A licensee may place his or her active license who is in good standing into inactive status at anytime and renew an inactive license during the renewal period for a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100). Failure to renew your inactive license will result in a late fee added to your renewal equal to the cost of the renewal. The licensee may transfer back to active status once the licensee pays for an active license with background check with completion of continuing education.

The Board discussed that inactive status would be allowed up to five (5) years and an individual would have to reapply as new applicant and meet the current qualifications for licensure. Also an individual would have to meet the current requirements to reactive and renew a license from inactive status within a 5-year period. Furthermore, an owner of a company would not be eligible to place their license on inactive status.

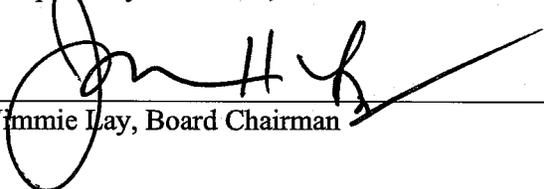
The Board also discussed adding that a bail bond company's unpaid final forfeiture or bail bond processing fees that failed to recertify, the clerk shall notify the Board at annual recertification.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Lay reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was originally scheduled February 20th and it was the consensus of the Board to change the meeting date to February 27, 2026 due to conflicts in scheduling.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. McNeil made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maxie and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Lay adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jimmie Lay, Board Chairman



Carla H. Woodall, Board Secretary

/s/  Approved by the Board on February 27, 2026