



MSBRPG

Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists

FY 2025

Annual Report

January 1, 2026

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Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists

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Mississippi Code Annotated Section 73-63-19 provides that the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists (MSBRPG) shall submit an annual report to the Governor in January, to include a complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Board. The details of expenditures and revenues are provided in the Board's FY 27 budget request, the most relevant portions of which are included in this report.

Executive Summary

- The Mississippi Board of Registered Professional Geologists was created to safeguard life, health, property, and to promote public welfare.
- The overall mission of this agency is to ensure that those publicly practicing geology, environmental geology, engineering geology, geophysics, geochemistry and other subdisciplines of geology, are adequately educated, trained, and experienced so that the public's health, safety and welfare are indeed being protected.
- The Board's mission includes the licensure and regulation of the public practice of geology by those who make geologic determinations and evaluations which may affect the public welfare. The practice of geology and its scope is defined in the Mississippi Registered Professional Geologists Practice Act of 1997 (§73-63-1 *et seq*, Mississippi Code, Amended 1972).
- MSBRPG also works with licensure boards and agencies in other states and with the National Association of State Boards of Geology to facilitate registration across the country and to play an active role in the preparation and relevance of the examinations required for professional registration and enrollment.
- The Board does not receive General Fund appropriations, instead the Board supports itself financially by collecting licensing and renewal fees from applicants for registration and enrollment.
- FY 25 Highlights:
 - The Board continued outreach and communication efforts by meeting with students and attending professional meetings.
 - 37 registrants and enrollees were added to the roster.
 - Board operations continued effectively by fulfilling 95% of all requests within three business days.
 - The Board continued the process of reviewing its Rules and Regulations.

BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

MSBRPG is composed of five members appointed by the Governor. Each member holds office for four years or is held over until the appointment of his or her successor. A member of the MSBRPG must be a Registered Professional Geologist in Mississippi, a resident of the state of Mississippi, and at least thirty years of age.

FY 25 Board members (as of June 30, 2025):

Kristen D. Sorrell, RPG, President	Madison	Term Ends: July 1, 2025
Franklin T. Heitmuller, PHD, RPG, Vice President	Hattiesburg	Term Ends: July 1, 2025
Charles K. Brown, RPG	Brandon	Term Ends: July 1, 2028
Erin L. Kymes, RPG	Madison	Term Ends: July 1, 2028
Nancy Rebecca McGrew, RPG	Tupelo	Term Ends: July 1, 2027

PHILOSOPHY

The Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists is dedicated to the protection of the environment, the public's health, safety and welfare, and to the competent public practice of geology. The philosophy of the Board is to fulfill its responsibilities to its enrollees/registrants and to the public with the highest professional standards, quality of service, and equitable treatment of all individuals. The Board maintains and operates by a Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics contained in its Rules and Regulations. The Board continually promotes a positive working relationship with private sector companies, universities, other State agencies, and geological licensure boards in other states to develop and share information to better serve the public.

GOALS

- Professional Registration/Enrollment
 - Use a thorough and efficient process ensuring that any individual seeking licensure or renewal has met the requirements of the Mississippi Registered Professional Geologists Practice Act of 1997 (§73-63-1 *et seq*, Mississippi Code, Amended 1972).
- Regulation and Enforcement
 - Ensure thorough regulation and enforcement so that Registered Professional Geologists protect the public's health, safety and welfare.
- Communications, Outreach and Organizational Effectiveness
 - Increase public and professional awareness of MSBRPG and its mission, activities, programs and services, deliver exceptional customer service, and increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

- Twenty five (25) individuals submitted an application for RPG and were found to have met the minimum qualifications for licensure
 - Registered Professional Geologists added to the Roster in FY 25:

ROBERT	MANFRED	BAKER	ORLANDO	FL
COLLEEN	O'SHEA	BARTON	RAVENNA	OH
BENNETT	NATHAN	BATES	CLINTON	MS
JAMES	ANDREW	COOK	TUSCALOOSA	AL
MICHAEL	HUNTER	COX	BIRMINGHAM	AL
KELSEY	TAYLOR	CRANE	BRANDON	MS
MICHAEL	A	DAVIS	MOBILE	AL
ZACHERY	JOSEPH	DOWNES	GREER	SC
CALEB	MYERS	ELDRIDGE	SILVERHILL	AL
KURT	M	HELLMICH	FOLEY	AL
MARY	CATHERINE	LAWRENCE	DULUTH	GA
BRANNON	WADE	McDONALD	WETUMPKA	AL
SPENCER	JOHN	McQUAIG	FLORENCE	MS
PATRICK	JEFFERY	MICKAL	BATON ROUGE	LA
GENNA	KOETTER	OLSON	RALEIGH	NC
VARUN	GNANAPRIAN	PAUL	STARKVILLE	MS
GRAHAM	PATRICK	ROBINSON	HATTIESBURG	MS
RACHEL	LYNN	SHANNON	CHEVY CHASE	MD
WILLIAM	EDWARD	STEPHENS	RISING SUN	MD
VALERIA	ANDREYNA	SUAREZ BOLIVAR	PFLUGERVILLE	TX
MICHELLE	KATHLEEN	TRANSIER	NACOGDOCHES	TX
EDWIN	TAYLOR	VANDEGRIFT	PHOENIX	AZ
CLINTON	PATRICK	WALLACE	HOUSTON	TX
JASON	LANE	WHITMAN	CORAL SPRINGS	FL
MARK	STEVEN	ZELLMAN	GOLDEN	CO

- Twelve (12) individuals submitted an application for GIT and were found to have met the minimum qualifications for enrollment.
 - Enrolled Geologists-In-Training added to the Roster in FY 25:

PRATAP		BOHARA	OXFORD	MS
KELSEY	TAYLOR	CRANE	BRANDON	MS
WILEY	MELVIN	GRIFFIN	PORT GIBSON	MS
DENALI	LYNN	JOHN	HATTIESBURG	MS
WILLIAM	ELDRIDGE	LAIRD	MCCOMB	MS
JESSICA	ANN	LOWERY	PEARL	MS
SPENCER	JOHN	McQUAIG	FLORENCE	MS
BAILEE	MICHELLE	OZBIRN	FULTON	MS
JOHN	IRVIN	POGALZ	STARKVILLE	MS
JARED	EDWARD	STIEFEL	HATTIESBURG	MS
NATALYA	S	USACHENKO	JACKSON	MS
WILLIAM	MATTHEW	WATKINS	MADISON	MS
				SR

TEMPORARY WORK PERMITS

Applicants who are duly licensed or registered in a state with a law similar to Mississippi and is a true practice regulation act and are not residents of the State of Mississippi may apply for a Temporary Work Permit that allows them to practice geology on a temporary basis in the State. During FY 25, no (0) individuals who were licensed geologists and in good standing in other jurisdictions were issued time-limited Temporary Work Permits.

LICENSE AND ENROLLMENT RENEWALS

At the beginning of FY 25 there were twenty-seven (27) enrolled Geologists in Training (GIT) and five hundred-four (504) Registered Professional Geologists (RPG) in Mississippi. All enrolled GIT and RPG are required to renew their licenses annually, prior to January 1 of each year. At the end of FY 25, there were thirty (30) GITs and five hundred-five (505) RPGs in Mississippi. Twenty-seven (27) individuals did not renew their enrollment or registration.

MEETINGS

Per Mississippi Statute, the MSBRPG is required to meet at least twice (2) annually. Instead, the Board met four (4) times during FY 25. Per Mississippi Statute, all meetings were held in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meeting Act and were open to the public. Reasonable notices of all meetings were made available to the public prior to all meetings.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF GEOLOGY

The Board maintains membership with the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®). In addition to the ASBOG® qualifying examinations, this Board's affiliation with ASBOG® provides an essential mechanism by which Mississippi, the Board and its membership, and the geologic educational leaders of this state are kept aware of national trends in the professional practice of geology and related areas. During FY 25, Executive Director Williams represented Mississippi by attending the annual ASBOG® meeting.

GEOLOGY COMPETENCY EXAMINATIONS

The Board has the responsibility of administering examinations prepared by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®). Examinations were first offered in Mississippi in March, 1999 and are currently offered in thirty-four (34) states nationwide. The qualifying examinations, the "Fundamentals of Geology" (FG) and "Practice of Geology" (PG) are offered twice yearly. During FY 25 twenty-four (24) individuals sat for the FG exam and six (6) individuals sat for the PG exam in Mississippi.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

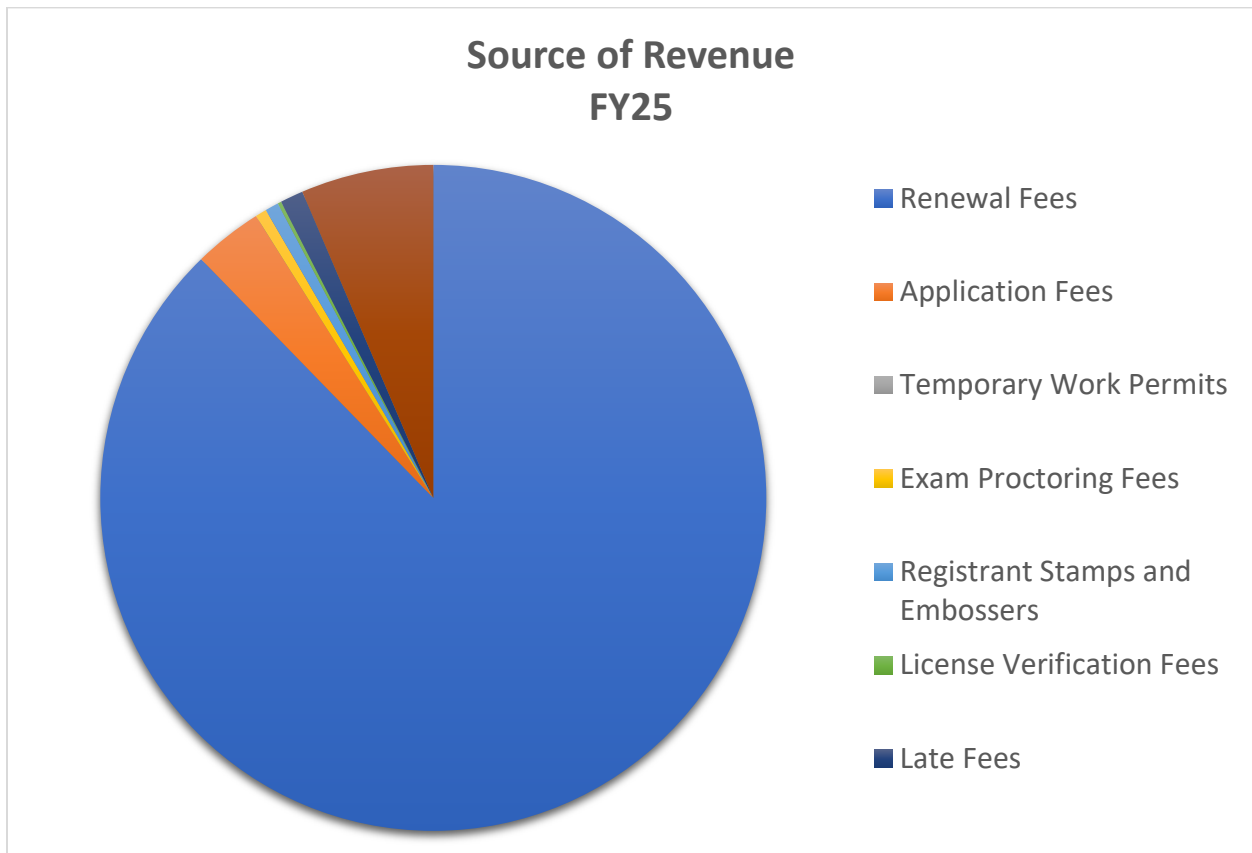
During FY 25 the Board continued to review its Rules and Regulations. No changes were submitted to the OLRC in FY 25.

BUDGET

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	REQUEST
Salaries/Wages/Fringe Benefits	\$101,593	\$103,219	\$105,862
Travel	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Contractual Services	\$23,154	\$31,307	\$31,307
Commodities	\$1,664	\$7,290	\$7,290
Capital Outlay/Equipment	-	-	-
Total	\$126,411	\$144,816	\$147,459

SOURCE OF REVENUE

Approximately 90% of MSBRPG's revenue is from renewal fees.



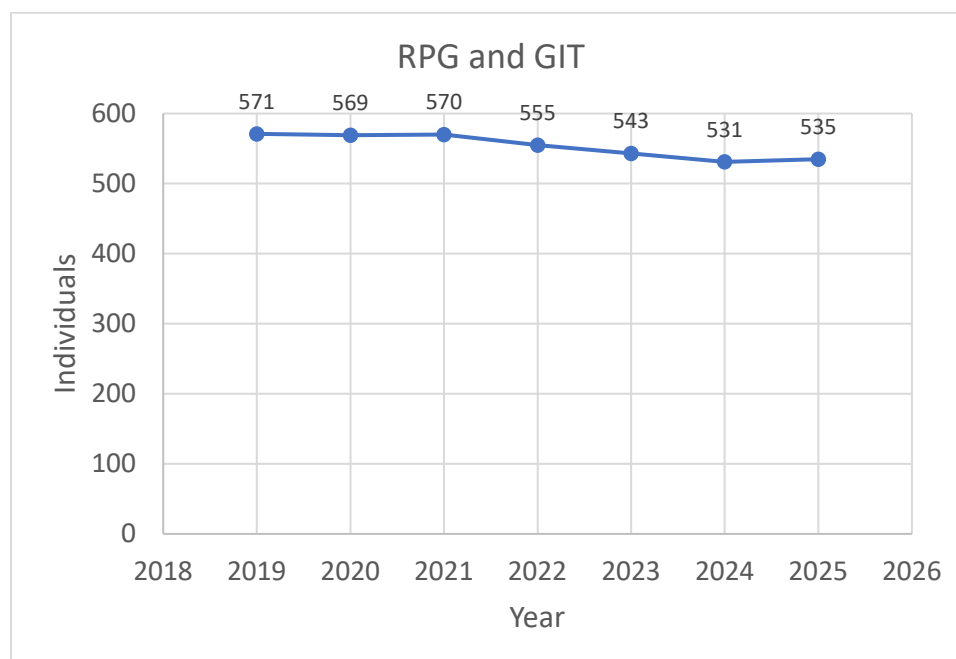
LICENSURE AND ENROLLMENT BY LOCATION

Sixty-nine (69) percent of all RPGs and GITs in Mississippi reside in other states.

	Registered Professional Geologist	Geologist in Training	Total
Resident	145	21	166 (31% resident)
Non-Resident	360	9	369 (69% non-resident)
Total	505	30	535
% of total	94%	6%	

LICENSURE AND ENROLLMENT BY YEAR

The number of active registrants and enrollees fluctuates slightly year-to-year and has averaged 553 from FY 19 to FY 25.



CONCLUSION

MSBRPG is a committed agency that protects the public through proactive licensure and regulatory efforts. MSBRPG has a thorough and robust application process, and a responsible communication agenda. In addition to the outstanding work MSBRPG is accomplishing in Mississippi, the members of the agency proactively affect the profession by participating in national organizations. MSBRPG is a fiscally responsible, transparent, and efficient agency.