



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

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## **TDLR celebrates Texas Architectural Barriers Act & Americans with Disabilities Act anniversaries**

*Agency urges qualified individuals to become a licensed Registered Accessibility Specialist*

**AUSTIN** – As Texas celebrates almost fifty years of the Texas Architectural Barriers Act and the twenty-ninth anniversary of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the state needs more Registered Accessibility Specialists than ever before.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has approximately 2,000 construction projects registered per month statewide, all of which must be reviewed and inspected by a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) to ensure that the projects are designed and constructed to comply with the Texas Accessibility Standards.

All publicly funded, commercial facility, and public accommodation construction projects subject to the Texas Architectural Barriers Act must comply with the Texas Accessibility Standards. Projects with an estimated cost of \$50,000 or more have the additional requirement of registration, review, and inspection by a RAS.

At present, only about 500 people in Texas hold RAS licenses issued by TDLR. Licensees may work as consultants in architecture firms, work for inspection companies, or work as independent contractors.

Public interest in safety, the ongoing need to eliminate unnecessary architectural barriers encountered by persons with disabilities, and the desire to improve the quality of construction should continue to create demand for inspectors. Certified construction and building inspectors who can perform a variety of inspections should have the best job opportunities.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment of construction and building inspectors is projected to grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026--faster than the average for all occupations.

### **RAS applicants have three paths to licensure:**

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- **Option 1:** Degree (architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, or equivalent) and one year of experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design, or review, or equivalent.
- **Option 2:** Eight years of experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design, review, or equivalent.
- **Option 3:** Certification as an accessibility specialist granted by a model building code organization and four years of experience related to building inspection, building planning, accessibility design, review, or equivalent.

Learn more about the RAS license here: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/ab/ab.htm>.

#### About TDLR

*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 800,000 licensees across the state.*

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese.

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