



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

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Tela Mange

Public Information Officer

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

512.463.3208

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

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

**AUSTIN** – Although Texas is celebrating 51 years of the Texas Elimination of Architectural Barriers Act and 31 years of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the state lags in having enough Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS) to review and inspect the approximately 2,000 construction projects registered per month statewide.

Each construction project registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation must be reviewed and inspected to ensure that the projects are designed and constructed to comply with the Texas Accessibility Standards.

“If you have experience in architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture or planning, your fellow Texans with disabilities need your skills to help ensure that buildings are accessible to them and they can participate fully in society,” said Brian E. Francis, executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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 543 people in Texas are Registered Accessibility Specialists with 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

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)

TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

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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 3 percent from 2019 to 2029. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for building inspectors nationwide is \$62,860 per year or \$30.22 per hour.

**Here are three paths to becoming a RAS:**

- **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.

All three paths require passing a written examination covering the Texas Accessibility Standards and other information related to the Elimination of Architectural Barriers program. Learn more about becoming a RAS: <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 40 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 1,000,000 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 and Vietnamese.

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512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)  
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