

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7020

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

Vote Date: 3/12/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/26/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

Co-sponsors:

Rep. Jill Barry, 31st Dist.

Rep Jason Doucette, 13th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill intends to modernize licensure requirements for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) by (1) creating new pathways to licensure that involve various combinations of education, testing, and experience and (2) simplifying reciprocity arrangements with other states. The legislation is aimed at addressing our state's shortage of CPAs by clarifying requirements and improving accessibility to the profession.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Joseph Centofanti, CPA

As a practicing CPA for over 30 years and a former adjunct professor, I know that work experience is more valuable than additional courses. Expanding licensure pathways helps address workforce shortages by allowing candidates additional options. Enhancing mobility provisions grants any CPA in good standing in another state the ability to practice in Connecticut without notifying the State Board of Accountancy or paying additional fees.

Jennifer Hockenhull

As a CPA who moved from out of state, I was disappointed with Connecticut's current system, so I decided to just keep my license active in the State of Washington. Allowing license mobility keeps Connecticut a business-friendly state and addresses the CPA workforce shortage in for-profit businesses, nonprofits, and government positions.

John Schuyler, Chairman, Connecticut State Board of Accountancy

The members of the State Board of Accountancy support the bill and agree it would have a positive impact on our profession and the business community. The proposals are imperative to ensure the profession is open to a diverse pool of candidates. They also ensure that Connecticut will have an adequate pool of qualified candidates and that our state's businesses have sufficient access to accounting and finance professionals. There are similar CPA licensing pathways and mobility proposals in more than 30 states across the country.

Bonnie Stewart, CEO, Connecticut Society of CPAs

This bill is a crucial step toward modernizing accounting in Connecticut. There are three things I think are most important in the bill:

1. It grants automatic mobility to any CPA who is licensed in another state and is in good standing.
2. Removing the "substantial equivalency" language from Connecticut statutes makes requirements clearer and more flexible.
3. Providing multiple pathways to CPA licensure will maintain high standards while recognizing different educational and professional backgrounds.

Overall, providing multiple pathways to CPA licensure will enhance access to the profession and help address workforce shortages.

Zachery Therrien

As an engineering grad working at an accounting firm, I plan to obtain my CPA licensure, and this bill would make that more accessible for me and others. Expanded licensure pathways address workplace shortages by providing additional combinations of education, examination, and experience that qualify a candidate for licensure.

Kathleen Murray Kilian

Our profession needs to change if we are to enable the next generation of CPAs. Streamlining mobility practices across state lines ensures that residents have access to qualified accounting and auditing professionals.

Lynette Lindner

Because of the decreased number of CPAs, many firms are overwhelmed with existing clients, and it is becoming difficult to find someone available. The expanded licensure pathways in this bill will address these shortages by offering more options for CPA licensure. Making the profession more accessible will ensure that Connecticut has a broader pool of qualified CPAs who can meet residents' needs.

Brian Reilly, Chair, Connecticut Society of CPAs Pipeline Task Force:

Our profession is facing a crisis. Retirements over the next several years combined with lower accounting major enrollments at our colleges and universities are reducing our pool of CPAs. However, the demand for CPA services is increasing due the complexity of tax laws, financial regulations, and business operations. Our task force has been looking for ways to address the accounting profession's issues and grow a skilled workforce. The existing licensure framework

no longer supports the current and future CPA workforce, and modernizing licensure requirements will increase participation in the profession while maintaining high standards. We support the three flexible pathways to CPA licensure.

The following submitted this testimony:

The expanded licensure pathways help address workforce shortages that will make the profession more accessible while preserving the qualifications that protect the public interest. The bill will uphold high professional and ethical standards, ensuring that professionals can meet clients' needs in an interconnected world.

Michael Adams	Kenneth Berkowitz
Michael Bernstein	Damien Bonsu
John Cahillane	Kristi Cote
Ronald DeSoiza	Ellen Essman
Edward Granelli	Ignagni Robert
Robert King	Bradley Kronstsat
Charles Lemkin	Sebastian Lisi
Robert Lyder	Misal Panchal
Matthew Piechota	Paul Rohan
Shannon Spera	Sarah Stover
Edward Sullivan	Scott Therrien
Laura Wyeth	Carrie Zimyeski

The following submitted this testimony:

As a constituent, I support the bill and its proposal to expand pathways to CPA licensure. It will provide access to the profession to a more diverse group of candidates and therefore address the shortage of CPAs in our state.

Donna Baker	Lawrence Baldyga
Marth Bassett	Mark Briggs
Frederic Farber	David Gibbs
Gabrielle Jadach	Lewis Kaufman
Steven Klein	Gregg Lionetti
Cheri Mazza	Carlos Mendez
Kevin Metivier	Peter Neidermeyer
Paul Piasecki	Juan Quintero
Jordan Willis	Joseph Wollak
Nicholas Zevetchin	

The following submitted this testimony:

The bill supports two vital proposals.

(1) Establishing alternative pathways to CPA licensure.

(2) Allowing for automatic CPA practice mobility across state lines.

These proposals will expand the profession while maintaining high standards.

Edward Burger	Robin Byrd
Benjamin Cahill	Scott Crane
Katherine Donovan	Sean Donovan
Kathleen Held	Rachel Flaherty
Francine Kasweka	Dawn Parker
Katherine Patnaude	Patricia

Kristine Shostok
Lauryn Thibodeau

Robin Spindler
Patricia Walsh

The following also submitted testimony in support of the bill:

Donna Cook
Lisa Miller

Sandy Coombes

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: March 17, 2025