



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7020***

LCO No. 5159



Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:  
(GL)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 As used in this section and sections 20-280 to 20-281n, inclusive, as  
4 amended by this act:

5 (1) "Board" means the State Board of Accountancy established by  
6 section 20-280, as amended by this act;

7 (2) "Certificate" means a "certified public accountant" certificate  
8 issued either prior to October 1, 1992, or pursuant to section 20-281c, as  
9 amended by this act, or a "certified public accountant" certificate issued  
10 after examination pursuant to the laws of any other state;

11 (3) "Firm" means any person, proprietorship, partnership,  
12 corporation, limited liability company or association and any other legal  
13 entity which practices public accountancy;

14       (4) "License" means a public accountancy license issued pursuant to  
15 section 20-281b or 20-281d;

16       (5) "Licensee" means the holder of a certificate issued pursuant to  
17 section 20-281c, as amended by this act, the holder of a license issued  
18 pursuant to section 20-281b or 20-281d or a holder of a permit to practice  
19 public accountancy issued pursuant to sections 20-281b and 20-281e;

20       (6) "Permit" means a permit to practice public accountancy issued to  
21 a firm pursuant to section 20-281e;

22       (7) "Practicing public accountancy" means performing for the public  
23 or offering to perform for the public for a fee by a person or firm holding  
24 himself, herself or itself out to the public as a licensee one or more kinds  
25 of services involving the use of accounting or auditing skills, including,  
26 but not limited to, the issuance of reports or of one or more kinds of  
27 management advisory, financial advisory or consulting services, or the  
28 preparation of tax returns or the furnishing of advice on tax matters;

29       (8) "Quality review" means any study, appraisal or review of one or  
30 more aspects of the professional work of a person or firm which  
31 practices public accountancy by a person or persons who holds or hold  
32 licenses under section 20-281b or 20-281d or their equivalent under the  
33 laws of any other state and who are not affiliated with the person or firm  
34 being reviewed;

35       (9) "Registration" means the process by which the holder of a  
36 certificate may register his or her certificate annually and pay a fee of  
37 twenty dollars in lieu of an annual renewal of a license and be entitled  
38 to use the abbreviation "CPA" and the title "certified public accountant"  
39 under conditions and in the manner prescribed by the board by  
40 regulation;

41       (10) "Profession" means the profession of public accountancy;

42       (11) "Report" means, in reference to any attest or compilation service,  
43 any opinion, writing or other form of language that (A) expresses or

44 implies assurance as to the reliability of the attested information or  
45 compiled financial statements, and (B) contains or is accompanied by a  
46 statement that expresses or implies that the person or firm issuing such  
47 opinion, writing or other language has special knowledge or  
48 competence in accounting or auditing, which expression or implication  
49 arises from, among other things, the use of names or titles by the issuer  
50 indicating that the person or firm is an accountant or auditor or from the  
51 language of the report itself. "Report" includes any form of language that  
52 disclaims an opinion when such form of language is conventionally  
53 understood to imply any positive assurance as to the reliability of the  
54 attested information or compiled financial statements referred to or  
55 special competence on the part of the person or firm issuing such  
56 language, including any other form of language that is conventionally  
57 understood to imply such assurance or special knowledge or  
58 competence;

59 (12) "AICPA" means the American Institute of Certified Public  
60 Accountants;

61 (13) "Attest" means the provision of any of the following services:

62 (A) Any audit or other engagement to be performed in accordance  
63 with the Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS);

64 (B) Any review of a financial statement to be performed in accordance  
65 with the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services  
66 (SSARS);

67 (C) Any examination of prospective financial information to be  
68 performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for  
69 Attestation Engagements (SSAE);

70 (D) Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the  
71 Auditing Standards of the PCAOB; and

72 (E) Any examination, review or agreed upon procedures engagement  
73 to be performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for

74 Attestation Engagements (SSAE), other than an examination as  
75 described in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

76 (14) "Compilation" means the provision of a service to be performed  
77 in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review  
78 Services (SSARS) that is presented in the form of financial statements  
79 that is the representation of management without undertaking to  
80 express any assurance on the statements;

81 (15) "Home office" means the location specified by the client as the  
82 address to which a service described in section 20-281n, as amended by  
83 this act, is directed;

84 [(16) "NASBA" means the National Association of State Boards of  
85 Accountancy;]

86 [(17)] (16) "PCAOB" means the Public Company Accounting  
87 Oversight Board;

88 [(18)] (17) "Practice privilege" means the privilege for a person or firm  
89 to practice public accountancy described in, and subject to the  
90 conditions contained in, sections 20-281e and 20-281n, as amended by  
91 this act; and

92 [(19)] (18) "Principal place of business" means the office location  
93 designated by an individual or firm for purposes of sections 20-281e and  
94 20-281n, as amended by this act. [;]

95 [(20) "Substantial equivalency" is a determination by the board of  
96 accountancy or its designee that the education, examination and  
97 experience requirements contained in the statutes and administrative  
98 rules of another jurisdiction are comparable to, or exceed, the education,  
99 examination and experience requirements contained in the Uniform  
100 Accountancy Act or that an individual certified public accountant's  
101 education, examination and experience qualifications are comparable  
102 to, or exceed, the education, examination and experience requirements  
103 contained in the Uniform Accountancy Act.]

104       Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 20-280 of the general statutes is  
105 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
106 *1, 2025*):

107       (g) The board may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,  
108 governing its administration and enforcement of sections 20-279b to 20-  
109 281m, inclusive, as amended by this act, and the conduct of licensees  
110 and registrants, including, but not limited to:

111       (1) Regulations governing the board's meetings and the conduct of its  
112 business;

113       (2) Regulations concerning procedures governing the conduct of  
114 investigations and hearings by the board;

115       (3) Regulations [specifying] implementing the [educational  
116 qualifications required] education requirements established for the  
117 issuance of certificates under section 20-281c, as amended by this act,  
118 implementing the experience [required] requirements established for  
119 initial issuance of certificates under section 20-281c, as amended by this  
120 act, and specifying the continuing professional education required for  
121 renewal of licenses under subsection (e) of section 20-281d;

122       (4) Regulations concerning professional conduct directed to  
123 controlling the quality and probity of the practice of public accountancy  
124 by licensees, and dealing among other things with independence,  
125 integrity, objectivity, competence, technical standards, responsibilities  
126 to the public and responsibilities to clients;

127       (5) Regulations specifying actions and circumstances that shall be  
128 deemed to constitute holding oneself out as a licensee in connection  
129 with the practice of public accountancy;

130       (6) Regulations governing the manner and circumstances of use by  
131 holders of certificates who do not also hold licenses under sections 20-  
132 279b to 20-281m, inclusive, as amended by this act, of the titles "certified  
133 public accountant" and "CPA";

134 (7) Regulations regarding quality reviews that may be required to be  
135 performed under the provisions of sections 20-279b to 20-281m,  
136 inclusive, as amended by this act;

137 (8) Regulations implementing the provisions of section 20-281l,  
138 including, but not limited to, specifying the terms of any disclosure  
139 required by subsection (d) of said section 20-281l, the manner in which  
140 such disclosure is made and any other requirements the board imposes  
141 with regard to such disclosure. Such regulations shall require that any  
142 disclosure: (A) Be in writing and signed by the recipient of the product  
143 or service; (B) be clear and conspicuous; (C) state the amount of the  
144 commission or the basis on which the commission will be calculated; (D)  
145 identify the source of the payment of the commission and the  
146 relationship between such source and the person receiving payment;  
147 and (E) be presented to the client at or prior to the time the  
148 recommendation of the product or service is made;

149 (9) Regulations establishing the due date for any fee charged  
150 pursuant to sections 20-281c, as amended by this act, 20-281d and 20-  
151 281e. Such regulations may establish the amount and due date of a late  
152 fee charged for the failure to remit payment of any fee charged pursuant  
153 to sections 20-281c, as amended by this act, 20-281d and 20-281e; and

154 (10) Such other regulations as the board may deem necessary or  
155 appropriate for implementing the provisions and the purposes of  
156 sections 20-279b to 20-281m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

157 Sec. 3. Section 20-281c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
158 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

159 (a) The board shall grant the certificate of "certified public  
160 accountant" to any person who meets the good character, education,  
161 experience and examination requirements of subsections (b) to [(e)] (f),  
162 inclusive, of this section and upon the payment of a fee of one hundred  
163 fifty dollars.

164 (b) Good character for purposes of this section means lack of a history

165 of dishonest or felonious acts. The board may refuse to grant a certificate  
166 on the grounds of failure to satisfy this requirement only if there is a  
167 substantial connection between the lack of good character of the  
168 applicant and the professional responsibilities of a licensee and if the  
169 finding by the board of lack of good character is supported by clear and  
170 convincing evidence, and when based upon the prior conviction of a  
171 crime, is in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-80. When an  
172 applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of a finding  
173 of lack of good character, the board shall furnish the applicant a  
174 statement containing the findings of the board and a complete record of  
175 the evidence upon which the determination was based.

176 (c) An applicant may apply to take the examination if such person, at  
177 the time of the examination, has completed not less than one hundred  
178 twenty semester hours of education, as determined by the board by  
179 regulation to be appropriate. The [educational] education requirements  
180 for a certificate shall be [prescribed in regulations to be adopted by the  
181 board] as follows:

182 (1) [Until December 31, 1999, a] A baccalaureate degree or its  
183 equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board,  
184 with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the  
185 board by regulation to be appropriate;

186 (2) [After January 1, 2000, at] At least one hundred fifty semester  
187 hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree  
188 conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board. The total  
189 educational program shall include an accounting concentration or  
190 equivalent, as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate;  
191 or

192 (3) A master's degree or its equivalent conferred by a college or  
193 university acceptable to the board, with an accounting concentration or  
194 equivalent as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate.

195 (d) The board may charge each applicant a fee, in an amount  
196 prescribed by the board by regulation, for each section of the

197 examination or reexamination taken by the applicant, or the board may  
198 authorize a third party administering the examination to charge each  
199 applicant a fee for each section of the examination or reexamination  
200 taken by the applicant.

201 (e) The board shall allow an applicant who applies to take the  
202 examination on or after October 1, 2023, to receive credit for each section  
203 of the examination that such applicant passes in any sitting for such  
204 examination, provided such applicant passes all sections of the  
205 examination within a thirty-month period. The board may, in its  
206 discretion, extend the thirty-month period for reasons related to health,  
207 military service or other individual hardship.

208 (f) The experience requirement for a certificate shall be [as prescribed  
209 by the board by regulation] as follows:

210 (1) Two years if the applicant is applying for a certificate based on the  
211 education requirement established in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of  
212 this section; or

213 (2) One year if the applicant is applying for a certificate based on the  
214 education requirement established in subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection  
215 (c) of this section.

216 (g) The holder of a certificate may register his or her certificate  
217 annually and pay a fee of forty dollars in lieu of an annual renewal of a  
218 license and such registration shall entitle the registrant to use the  
219 abbreviation "CPA" and the title "certified public accountant" under  
220 conditions and in the manner prescribed by the board by regulation.

221 Sec. 4. Section 20-281n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
222 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

223 (a) (1) [Any] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
224 any individual whose principal place of business is not in this state [shall  
225 be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this  
226 state's requirements and] shall qualify for a practice privilege and have



227 all the privileges of licensees of this state without the need to obtain a  
228 license pursuant to section 20-281d if [:]

229 [(1) Such] such individual holds a valid license as a Certified Public  
230 Accountant from any state [which the NASBA National Qualification  
231 Appraisal Service has verified to be in substantial equivalence with the  
232 CPA licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform  
233 Accountancy Act; or

234 (2) Such individual holds a valid license as a Certified Public  
235 Accountant from any state which the NASBA National Qualification  
236 Appraisal Service has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with  
237 the CPA licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform  
238 Accountancy Act and the individual obtains from the NASBA National  
239 Qualification Appraisal Service verification that such individual's CPA  
240 qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure  
241 requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act. Any  
242 individual who passed the Uniform CPA Examination and holds a valid  
243 license issued by any other state prior to January 1, 2012, may be exempt  
244 from the education requirement in the Uniform Accountancy Act for  
245 purposes of this subdivision] and meets the good character, education,  
246 experience and examination requirements of subsections (b) to (f),  
247 inclusive, of section 20-281c, as amended by this act, and any regulations  
248 adopted by the board pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of  
249 section 20-280, as amended by this act.

250 (2) The board may decline to allow the licensees of another state to  
251 exercise the practice privilege afforded under this section or have all of  
252 the privileges of licensees of this state without the need to obtain a  
253 license pursuant to section 20-281d if the board determines, in the  
254 board's discretion, that (A) such other state imposes good character,  
255 education, experience or examination requirements that are less  
256 stringent than the good character, education, experience or examination  
257 requirements of subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of section 20-281c, as  
258 amended by this act, and any regulations adopted by the board  
259 pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of section 20-280, as

260 amended by this act, and (B) the good character, education, experience  
261 or examination requirements imposed by such other state are  
262 insufficient to protect consumers in this state.

263 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
264 individual who qualifies for [a practice privilege] the privileges afforded  
265 under this section may offer or render professional services, whether in  
266 person or by mail, telephone or electronic means, based on [a practice  
267 privilege] such privileges, and no notice, fee or other submission shall  
268 be required of any such individual. Such individual shall be subject to  
269 the requirements in subsection (c) of this section.

270 (c) Any individual licensee of another state exercising the [privilege]  
271 privileges afforded under this section and the firm that employs such  
272 licensee shall consent, as a condition of the grant of such [privilege]  
273 privileges:

274 (1) To the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary  
275 authority of the board;

276 (2) To comply with any applicable provision of state law and the  
277 board's rules;

278 (3) That in the event the license from the state of such individual's  
279 principal place of business is no longer valid, such individual shall cease  
280 offering or rendering professional services in this state individually and  
281 on behalf of a firm; and

282 (4) To the appointment of the state board that issued such license as  
283 the agent upon whom process may be served in any action or  
284 proceeding by the board against such licensee.

285 (d) Any individual who qualifies for [practice] the privileges afforded  
286 under this section who, for any entity with its home office in this state,  
287 performs any of the following services: (1) Any financial statement audit  
288 or other engagement to be performed in accordance with Statements on  
289 Auditing Standards; (2) any review of a financial statement to be

290 performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for  
 291 Accounting and Review Services; (3) any examination of prospective  
 292 financial information, review or agreed upon procedures engagement  
 293 to be performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for  
 294 Attestation Engagements; or (4) any engagement to be performed in  
 295 accordance with PCAOB Auditing Standards, may only provide such  
 296 services through a firm that has obtained a permit issued under section  
 297 20-281e.

298 (e) Any licensee of this state that offers or renders services or uses  
 299 their CPA title in another state shall be subject to disciplinary action in  
 300 this state for an act committed in another state for which the licensee  
 301 would be subject to discipline for an act committed in the other state.  
 302 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-280c, the board shall  
 303 investigate any complaint made by the board of accountancy of another  
 304 state against any such licensee.

305 [(f) In determining substantial equivalency pursuant to this section,  
 306 the board shall take into account the qualifications of such person  
 307 without regard to the sequence in which experience, education or  
 308 examination requirements were attained.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-279b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-280(g)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-281c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	20-281n

**GL**      *Joint Favorable*