



House Bill No. 7020

Public Act No. 25-36

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

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

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 Section 20-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(11) "Report" means, in reference to any attest or compilation service, any opinion, writing or other form of language that (A) expresses or implies assurance as to the reliability of the attested information or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(E) Any examination, review or agreed upon procedures engagement

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to be performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE), other than an examination as described in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision;

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

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

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

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

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

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

[(20) "Substantial equivalency" is a determination by the board of accountancy or its designee that the education, examination and experience requirements contained in the statutes and administrative rules of another jurisdiction are comparable to, or exceed, the education, examination and experience requirements contained in the Uniform Accountancy Act or that an individual certified public accountant's

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education, examination and experience qualifications are comparable to, or exceed, the education, examination and experience requirements contained in the Uniform Accountancy Act.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) Regulations specifying actions and circumstances that shall be deemed to constitute holding oneself out as a licensee in connection

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with the practice of public accountancy;

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. Section 20-281c of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

[(b) Good character for purposes of this section means lack of a history of dishonest or felonious acts. The board may refuse to grant a certificate on the grounds of failure to satisfy this requirement only if there is a substantial connection between the lack of good character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a licensee and if the finding by the board of lack of good character is supported by clear and convincing evidence, and when based upon the prior conviction of a crime, is in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-80. When an applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of a finding of lack of good character, the board shall furnish the applicant a statement containing the findings of the board and a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based.]

[(c)] (b) (1) An applicant may apply to take the examination if such person, at the time of the examination, has completed not less than one hundred twenty semester hours of education, as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate. [The educational]

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the education requirements for a certificate shall be prescribed in regulations to be adopted by the board as follows:

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

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[(2)] (ii) After January 1, 2000, but before October 1, 2025, at least one hundred fifty semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board. The total educational program shall include an accounting concentration or its equivalent [,] as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate.

(B) On and after October 1, 2025, the education requirements for a certificate shall be as follows:

(i) A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, with an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate;

(ii) A baccalaureate degree conferred, and an additional thirty semester hours of college education provided, by a college or university acceptable to the board. The total educational program shall include an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate; or

(iii) A post-baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, with an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined by the board by regulation to be appropriate.

[(d)] (c) The board may charge each applicant a fee, in an amount prescribed by the board by regulation, for each section of the examination or reexamination taken by the applicant, or the board may authorize a third party administering the examination to charge each applicant a fee for each section of the examination or reexamination taken by the applicant.

[(e)] (d) The board shall allow an applicant who applies to take the examination on or after October 1, 2023, to receive credit for each section of the examination that such applicant passes in any sitting for such

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examination, provided such applicant passes all sections of the examination within a thirty-month period. The board may, in its discretion, extend the thirty-month period for reasons related to health, military service or other individual hardship.

[(f) The] (e) (1) Prior to October 1, 2025, the experience requirement for a certificate shall be as prescribed by the board by regulation.

(2) On and after October 1, 2025, the experience requirement for a certificate shall be as follows:

(A) Two years if the applicant is applying for a certificate based on the education requirement established in subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section; or

(B) One year if the applicant is applying for a certificate based on the education requirement established in subparagraph (B)(ii) or (B)(iii) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

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

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

[(a) Any individual whose principal place of business is not in this state shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall qualify for a practice privilege and have all the privileges of licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license pursuant to section 20-281d if:

(1) Such individual holds a valid license as a Certified Public

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Accountant from any state which the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service has verified to be in substantial equivalence with the CPA licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act; or

(2) Such individual holds a valid license as a Certified Public Accountant from any state which the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the CPA licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act and the individual obtains from the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service verification that such individual's CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act. Any individual who passed the Uniform CPA Examination and holds a valid license issued by any other state prior to January 1, 2012, may be exempt from the education requirement in the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this subdivision.]

(a) (1) Any individual whose principal place of business is not in this state shall qualify for a practice privilege and have all of the privileges of licensees of this state, without the need to obtain a license pursuant to section 20-281d, if (A) such individual is the holder of a valid Certified Public Accountant license that is in good standing and was issued by another state, and (B) such individual meets the education, experience and examination requirements of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 20-281c, as amended by this act.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, an individual shall qualify for a practice privilege and have all of the privileges of licensees of this state, without the need to obtain a license pursuant to section 20-281d, if (A) such individual passed the Uniform CPA Examination on or before September 30, 2025, and (B) on September 30, 2025, such individual is the holder of a valid Certified Public Accountant license that is in good standing and was issued by

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another state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor's Action:
Approved June 10, 2025