
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7020

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes a number of changes to requirements for certified public accountants (CPAs). It adds two new ways to satisfy the educational requirements and alters the experience required to obtain a CPA certificate. The bill also alters the requirements for granting a practice privilege to a person with a principal place of business outside the state, which permits the person to act as a CPA in the state without obtaining a Connecticut CPA certificate.

Finally, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

CPA REQUIREMENTS

By law, the State Board of Accountancy can issue a certificate of CPA to someone who meets good character, education, experience, and examination requirements.

Education

Currently, to satisfy the education requirement, a person must (1) complete at least 150 semester hours of college education including a bachelor's degree or higher from a college or university acceptable to the board and (2) have an accounting or equivalent concentration, as determined by the board in a regulation.

The bill adds two alternate ways to satisfy the education requirements:

1. 120 semester hours of education, a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a college or university acceptable to the board, and an accounting concentration or equivalent, as determined by

the board in a regulation; or

2. 120 semester hours of education, a master's degree or equivalent from a college or university acceptable to the board, and an accounting concentration or equivalent, as determined by the board in a regulation.

The bill limits the board's authority to adopt regulations on education requirements to implementing the bill's requirements, rather than allowing the regulations to specify these requirements.

Experience

Current law allows the board to adopt regulations to set the experience requirements for CPAs and the board's regulations require two years of experience. The bill retains the two-year requirement for those who satisfy the education requirements by having 120 semester hours of education and a bachelor's degree with an accounting or equivalent concentration but reduces it to one year for someone who meets the education requirements using either of the other two options described above.

The bill limits the board's authority to adopt regulations on experience requirements to implementing the bill's requirements, rather than allowing the regulations to specify these requirements.

PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

The bill changes how a person with a principal place of business outside the state qualifies for a practice privilege in Connecticut that permits the person to act as a CPA without obtaining a Connecticut license.

Currently, a person qualifies for practice privileges (with certain exceptions for those licensed prior to January 1, 2012) if he or she holds a CPA license from another state and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) verifies that:

1. the other state's licensure requirements are substantially equivalent to those in the Uniform Accountancy Act (an act

developed by NASBA and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) or

2. the person's qualifications are substantially equivalent to those in the act.

The bill eliminates these provisions and instead qualifies a person for practice privileges if he or she holds a CPA license from another state and meets the good character, education, experience, and examination requirements applicable to Connecticut licensees. It allows the board to decline to provide a person with some or all of the practice privileges if the other state's good character, education, experience, or examination requirements are (1) less stringent than Connecticut's and (2) insufficient to protect Connecticut consumers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/12/2025)