

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 548

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

ACCOUNTANTS/CPA: Provides for the regulation of certified public accountants and the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:74(B)(1), (H)(2), and (J)(7), 75(G), 76(A)(1),
3 (C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2), (G)(introductory paragraph) and (3), and
4 94(A)(1) and (2) and to repeal R.S. 37:73(19) and 74.1(3), relative to certified public
5 accountants; to provide for definitions; to provide for membership of the State Board
6 of Certified Public Accountants; to change fees; to provide for educational
7 requirements; to provide for licensing standards; to provide for mobility practice
8 privileges; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 37:74(B)(1), (H)(2), and (J)(7), 75(G), 76(A)(1), (C)(1)(introductory
11 paragraph) and (2), (G)(introductory paragraph) and (3), and 94(A)(1) and (2) are hereby
12 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 §74. State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana; powers and duties

14 * * *

15 B.(1) The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor,
16 all of whom shall be residents of this state and holders of valid licenses. Board
17 members shall be selected from diverse practice and professional areas, including but
18 not limited to tax, audit, and education. Each appointment shall be made from a list

1 of three or more names submitted to the governor by the Society of Louisiana
2 Certified Public Accountants or its successor.

3 * * *

4 H.

5 * * *

6 (2) The board ~~shall have~~ has the power to issue subpoenas to compel the
7 attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, to administer oaths, to take
8 testimony, and receive evidence concerning all matters within the scope of this Part,
9 and to cooperate with the appropriate state and federal regulatory authorities having
10 jurisdiction over the conduct in question in investigation and enforcement concerning
11 violations of this Part and comparable acts of other states. The board ~~shall have~~ has
12 the power to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory
13 authorities, which grant ~~substantially equivalent~~ comparable foreign designations
14 under R.S. 37:76(G), in instances which have or may result in criminal conviction,
15 loss of license or suspension, admonishment or censure.

16 * * *

17 J. The board may adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative
18 Procedure Act, governing its administration and enforcement of the provisions of this
19 Part and the conduct of holders of a certificate, license, or permit including but not
20 limited to rules governing:

21 * * *

22 (7) ~~Substantial equivalency~~ Mobility practice privileges.

23 * * *

24 §75. Qualifications for a certificate as a certified public accountant

25 * * *

26 G.(1)(a) An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate pursuant to the
27 provisions of this Section shall show that he has completed ~~at least~~ one of the
28 following educational pathways:

1 (i) ~~one hundred fifty semester hours of college education including a A~~
2 baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional thirty semester hours conferred by
3 a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to
4 include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be
5 appropriate.

6 (ii) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or
7 university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an
8 accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

9 (iii) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university
10 acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting
11 concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

12 (b) The applicant shall ~~meet all education requirements~~ complete one of the
13 educational pathways in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph by December thirty-first
14 of the fifth calendar year following successful completion of the examination, or the
15 examination scores will be voided. The board may grant additional time to complete
16 the ~~requirements~~ requirement as provided in this Section when an applicant can
17 demonstrate circumstances of extreme hardship.

18 (2)(a) An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate pursuant to the
19 provisions of this Section shall show that he has completed one year of experience
20 before the applicant is issued a certificate on the basis of the educational pathways
21 in Items (a)(i) or (ii) of this Subsection, or two years of experience before the
22 applicant is issued a certificate on the basis of the educational pathway in Item
23 (a)(iii) of this Subsection.

24 (b) Such experience shall include providing any type of service or advice
25 involving the use of accounting, attest, management advisory, financial advisory, tax,
26 or consulting skills. All such experience shall be obtained within the four-year
27 period preceding the board's receipt of the application and be verified by a licensee.

1 Experience gained through employment in government, industry, academia, or public
2 practice is acceptable.

3 * * *

4 §76. Issuance and renewal of certificates and maintenance of competency

5 A.(1) The board shall grant or renew certificates to persons who make
6 application to the board and demonstrate that their qualifications are in accordance
7 with the provisions of this Part or that they are eligible under the ~~substantial~~
8 ~~equivalency~~ mobility standard prescribed in this Part.

9 * * *

10 C.(1) For those applicants who do not qualify for reciprocity under the
11 ~~substantial equivalency~~ mobility standard provided for in this Part, the board shall
12 issue a certificate to a holder of an active certificate, license, or permit issued by
13 another state upon a showing that:

14 * * *

15 (2) As an alternative to the requirements of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,
16 an active certificate holder licensed by another state who desires to establish his
17 principal place of business in this state shall request the issuance of a certificate from
18 the board prior to establishing such principal place of business. The board shall issue
19 an active certificate to ~~such~~ that person whose CPA qualifications are ~~substantially~~
20 ~~equivalent~~ comparable to the CPA licensure requirements of this Part as determined
21 by the board or its designee.

22 * * *

23 G. The board may issue a certificate to a holder of a ~~substantially equivalent~~
24 comparable foreign designation provided that:

25 * * *

26 (3) The applicant:

27 (a) Received the designation based upon educational and examination
28 standards ~~substantially equivalent~~ comparable to those in effect in this state at the
29 time the foreign designation was granted.

1 (b) Completed an experience requirement ~~substantially equivalent~~
 2 comparable to the requirement provided for in R.S. 37:75 in the jurisdiction which
 3 granted the foreign designation, or has completed four years of professional
 4 experience in this state, or meets equivalent requirements prescribed by the board
 5 within the ten years immediately preceding the application.

6 * * *

7 §94. ~~Substantial equivalency~~ Mobility practice privileges

8 A.(1) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and
 9 who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing
 10 from any state ~~which the board or its designee has verified to be in substantial~~
 11 ~~equivalence with the licensure requirements of this Part shall be presumed to have~~
 12 ~~qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall have~~ has
 13 all the privileges of active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license
 14 as provided in this Part. ~~However, such individuals shall notify the board of their~~
 15 ~~intent to offer or render professional services under this Section and pay any fee~~
 16 ~~required by the board. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board, in~~
 17 ~~accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, may adopt a rule allowing an~~
 18 ~~individual who offers or renders professional services, whether in person, by mail,~~
 19 ~~telephone, or electronic means, under this Section to be granted practice privileges~~
 20 ~~in this state without giving notice to the board or paying any fee. Such an individual~~
 21 ~~shall be subject to the requirements of Paragraph (3) of this Subsection. or otherwise~~
 22 notify or register with the board or pay any fee, if at the time of initial licensure, the
 23 individual was required to show evidence of having passed the uniform CPA
 24 examination and having met one of the following requirements:

25 (a) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional thirty semester hours
 26 conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an
 27 accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience,
 28 both as defined by board rule.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 548 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Beaulieu

Abstract: Provides for the regulation of certified public accountants and the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La.

Present law defines "substantial equivalency" or "substantially equivalent".

Proposed law repeals those definitions.

Present law provides qualifications for members of the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La. (board).

Proposed law adds that board members shall be selected from diverse practice and professional areas, including but not limited to tax, audit, and education.

Present law grants the board powers, including power to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory authorities, which grant substantially equivalent foreign designations under present law (R.S. 37:76(G)), in instances which have or may result in criminal conviction, loss of license or suspension, admonishment or censure.

Proposed law grants the board powers to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory authorities, which grant comparable foreign designations under present law (R.S. 37:76(G)), in those instances.

Present law provides that the board may adopt rules governing administration and enforcement of the conduct of holders of a certificate, license, or permit including rules governing substantial equivalency.

Proposed law amends present law, changing substantial equivalency to mobility practice privileges.

Present law provides educational requirements for an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate.

Proposed law requires that an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate show that he has completed one of the following educational pathways:

- (1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.
- (2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.
- (3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

Proposed law requires that the applicant show the board that he has completed one year of experience before he is issued a certificate on the basis of educational pathways (1) or (2), and two years of experiences on the basis of educational pathway (3).

Present law provides for issuance or renewal of certificates to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the substantial equivalency standard.

Proposed law changes this to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the mobility standard.

Present law provides licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the substantial equivalency standard.

Proposed law amends present law and provides licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the mobility standard.

Present law provides that the board shall issue an active certificate to a person who desires to establish his principal place of business in this state whose CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of present law as determined by the board or its designee.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that the CPA qualifications need be comparable to the CPA licensure requirements of present law.

Present law provides that the board may issue a certificate to a holder of a substantially equivalent foreign designation provided that person received the designation based on educational and examination standards substantially equivalent to those of this state, and completed an experience requirement substantially equivalent to those of this state.

Proposed law amends the standard from "substantially equivalent" to "comparable".

Present law provides for practice privileges without the need to obtain a license as provided in present law for CPAs who have an active, valid license from another state that has substantially equivalent licensure requirements.

Proposed law amends present law to change the standard for mobility practice from outside the state, and provides that the person with an active valid license in good standing from another state shall have the privileges of active licensees of this state, and will not have to notify or register with the Board provided he shows evidence he has passed the uniform CPA examination and has met one of the following requirements:

- (1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.
- (2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.
- (3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than two years of experience, both as defined by board rule.

Proposed law provides that an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing from any state as of Dec. 31, 2024, and who, as of that date, had practice privileges in this state under present law shall continue to have all the privileges of active licensees of this state

without the need to obtain a license required by present and proposed law or to otherwise notify or register with the board or pay any fee.

Present law requires a fee to be collected by the board for notice under substantial equivalency.

Proposed law repeals that fee.

(Amends R.S. 37:74(B)(1), (H)(2), and (J)(7), 75(G), 76(A)(1), (C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2), (G)(intro. para.) and (3), and 94(A)(1) and (2); Repeals R.S. 37:73(19) and 74.1(3))