

ACT No. 653

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 548

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

* * *

B.(1) The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor, all of whom shall be residents of this state and holders of valid licenses. Board members shall be selected from diverse practice and professional areas, including but not limited to tax, audit, and education. Each appointment shall be made from a list of three or more names submitted to the governor by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants or its successor.

* * *

H.

* * *

(2) The board ~~shall have~~ has the power to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, to administer oaths, to take

1 testimony, and receive evidence concerning all matters within the scope of this Part,
 2 and to cooperate with the appropriate state and federal regulatory authorities having
 3 jurisdiction over the conduct in question in investigation and enforcement concerning
 4 violations of this Part and comparable acts of other states. The board ~~shall have~~ has
 5 the power to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory
 6 authorities, which grant ~~substantially equivalent~~ comparable foreign designations
 7 under R.S. 37:76(G), in instances which have or may result in criminal conviction,
 8 loss of license or suspension, admonishment or censure.

9 * * *

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

14 * * *

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

16 * * *

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

18 * * *

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

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

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

1 issue a certificate to a holder of an active certificate, license, or permit issued by
2 another state upon a showing that:

3 * * *

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

11 * * *

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

14 * * *

15 (3) The applicant:

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

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

24 * * *

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

26 A.(1) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and
27 who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing
28 from any state ~~which the board or its designee has verified to be in substantial~~
29 ~~equivalence with the licensure requirements of this Part shall be presumed to have~~
30 ~~qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall have~~ has

1 all the privileges of active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license
 2 as provided in this Part. ~~However, such individuals shall notify the board of their~~
 3 ~~intent to offer or render professional services under this Section and pay any fee~~
 4 ~~required by the board. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board, in~~
 5 ~~accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, may adopt a rule allowing an~~
 6 ~~individual who offers or renders professional services, whether in person, by mail,~~
 7 ~~telephone, or electronic means, under this Section to be granted practice privileges~~
 8 ~~in this state without giving notice to the board or paying any fee. Such an individual~~
 9 ~~shall be subject to the requirements of Paragraph (3) of this Subsection. or otherwise~~
 10 notify or register with the board or pay any fee, if at the time of initial licensure, the
 11 individual was required to show evidence of having passed the uniform CPA
 12 examination and having met one of the following requirements:

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

17 (b) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or
 18 university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or
 19 equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.

20 (c) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the
 21 total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and
 22 not less than two years of experience, both as defined by board rule.

23 (2) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and
 24 who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing
 25 from any state as of December 31, 2024, and who, as of that date, had practice
 26 privileges in this state in accordance with this Section, which the board or its
 27 ~~designee has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the licensure~~
 28 ~~requirements of this Part shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially~~
 29 ~~equivalent to this state's requirements and shall continue to have all the privileges of~~
 30 active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license required by this Part

1 ~~or to otherwise notify or register with the board or pay any fee, if such individual~~
2 ~~verifies that such individual's CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the~~
3 ~~CPA licensure requirements required by this Part. However, such individuals shall~~
4 ~~notify the board of their intent to offer or render professional services and exercise~~
5 ~~the privilege afforded by this Section and pay any fee required by the board.~~
6 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board, in accordance with the~~
7 ~~Administrative Procedure Act, may adopt a rule allowing an individual who offers~~
8 ~~or renders professional services, whether in person, by mail, telephone, or electronic~~
9 ~~means, under this Section to be granted practice privileges in this state without~~
10 ~~giving notice to the board or paying any fee. Such an individual shall be subject to~~
11 ~~the requirements of Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.~~

* * *

13 Section 2. R.S. 37:73(19) and 74.1(3) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____