

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 20, 2023

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 171

By: Dugger of the Senate

and

Kendrix of the House

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8  
9 An Act relating to accounting; amending 59 O.S. 2021,  
10 Section 15.8, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 26,  
11 O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.8), which  
12 relates to qualifications for application; decreasing  
13 required semester hours for certification; removing  
14 requirement for elective hours; amending 59 O.S.  
15 2021, Section 15.9, as amended by Section 4, Chapter  
16 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.9),  
17 which relates to grant of certificate or license;  
18 allowing the issuance of a certificate to an  
19 applicant under certain educational requirements;  
20 specifying educational requirements; updating  
21 statutory language; and providing an effective date.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.8, as  
24 amended by Section 3, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
Section 15.8), is amended to read as follows:

Section 15.8. A. A qualification applicant to qualify as a  
candidate for examination shall file an application for  
qualification in a format approved by the Oklahoma Accountancy

1 Board. The fee for the qualification application shall be  
2 determined by the Board and shall not exceed Three Hundred Dollars  
3 (\$300.00). Every qualification applicant to qualify as a candidate  
4 for the certificate of certified public accountant shall submit to a  
5 national criminal history record search, must be a resident of this  
6 state immediately prior to making application and, except as  
7 otherwise provided in this section, shall meet the education and  
8 experience requirements provided in this section. The costs  
9 associated with the national criminal history records search shall  
10 be paid by the applicant.

11 B. On or after ~~July 1, 2003~~ the effective date of this act,  
12 every qualification applicant to qualify as a candidate for  
13 examination for the certificate of certified public accountant shall  
14 have at least ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ one hundred twenty (120)  
15 semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, of college education  
16 including a baccalaureate or higher degree, or the equivalent  
17 thereof, conferred by a college or university acceptable to the  
18 Board from an accredited four-year college or university in this  
19 state or any other accredited four-year college or university  
20 recognized by the Board. ~~A minimum of seventy-six (76) semester~~  
21 ~~hours must be earned at the upper-division level of college or above~~  
22 ~~or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Board; this education~~  
23 ~~requirement shall have been completed prior to submitting an~~  
24 ~~application to the Board; the~~ The total educational program of the

1 applicant for examination shall include an accounting concentration  
2 or its equivalent as determined acceptable by the Board which shall  
3 include not less than ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) semester hours,  
4 or the equivalent thereof, in accounting courses above principles of  
5 accounting or introductory accounting, with at least one course in  
6 auditing or assurance; the remaining accounting courses shall be  
7 selected from financial accounting, accounting theory,  
8 cost/managerial accounting, federal income tax, governmental, not-  
9 for-profit accounting, accounting information systems, accounting  
10 history and other accounting electives; at least nine (9) semester  
11 hours shall be from any or all of the subjects of economics,  
12 statistics, business law, finance, business management, marketing,  
13 business communication, risk management, insurance, management  
14 information systems, or computer science at the upper-division level  
15 of college or above or the equivalent of such subjects as determined  
16 by the Board; all the remaining semester hours, if any, shall be  
17 elective ~~but shall be at the upper-division level of college or~~  
18 ~~above.~~

19 C. The costs associated with the national criminal history  
20 record check shall be paid by the applicant.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.9, as  
22 amended by Section 4, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
23 Section 15.9), is amended to read as follows:

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1           Section 15.9. A. Upon payment of appropriate fees, the  
2 Oklahoma Accountancy Board shall grant a certificate to any  
3 individual of good character who meets the applicable education,  
4 experience and testing requirements provided for in this section and  
5 in Sections 15.8 and 15.10 of this title. For purposes of this  
6 subsection, good character means an individual who does not have a  
7 history of dishonest acts as demonstrated by documented evidence and  
8 has not been convicted, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a  
9 felony charge. The Board may refuse to grant a certificate to an  
10 applicant for failure to satisfy the requirement of good character.  
11 The Board shall provide to the denied applicant written notification  
12 specifying grounds for denial of a certificate including failure to  
13 meet the good character criterion. Appeal of the action of the  
14 Board may be made in accordance with the provisions of the  
15 Administrative Procedures Act.

16           B. The Board shall issue certificates as certified public  
17 accountants to those applicants who have met the qualifications  
18 required by the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act and the  
19 applicable rules of the Board, and have passed an examination in  
20 accounting, auditing and related subjects as the Board determines  
21 appropriate with such grades that satisfy the Board that each  
22 applicant is competent to practice as a certified public accountant.

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1 C. The Board may make use of all or any part of the Uniform  
2 Certified Public ~~Accountant's~~ Accountant Examination and any  
3 organization that assists in providing the examination.

4 D. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate pursuant  
5 to this section shall show that the applicant has at least one  
6 hundred fifty (150) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, of  
7 college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree, or the  
8 equivalent thereof, conferred by a college or university acceptable  
9 to the Board from an accredited four-year college or university in  
10 this state or any other accredited four-year college or university  
11 recognized by the Board. Of the one hundred fifty (150) semester  
12 hours, not less than thirty (30) semester hours, or the equivalent  
13 thereof, shall be in accounting courses above principles of  
14 accounting or introductory accounting. These education requirements  
15 shall have been completed prior to submitting an application to the  
16 Board and within the time frame outlined in this section. A  
17 qualified applicant may take the certified public accountant  
18 examination as allowed in Section 15.8 of this title but shall not  
19 be issued a certificate until the education requirements pursuant to  
20 this section and Section 15.8 of this title have been met.

21 E. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate under  
22 this section shall show that the applicant has had one (1) year of  
23 experience. Experience shall be defined by the Board by rule and  
24 shall include providing a type of service or advice involving the

1 use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory,  
2 financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, and be satisfied  
3 through work experience in government, industry, academia or public  
4 practice, all of which shall be verified by a certificate or license  
5 holder or an individual approved by the Board. Upon completion of  
6 the requirements of Section 15.8 of this title, a qualified  
7 applicant for the examination may take the certified public  
8 accountant or public accountant examination prior to earning the  
9 experience required in this subsection, but shall not be issued a  
10 certificate until the experience requirement has been met.

11 ~~E.~~ F. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public  
12 accountant shall provide evidence of successful completion of an  
13 ethics examination prescribed by the Board.

14 ~~F.~~ G. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public  
15 accountant shall submit to a national criminal history record check.  
16 The costs associated with the national criminal history record check  
17 shall be paid by the applicant.

18 ~~G.~~ H. An individual applying for a certificate as a certified  
19 public accountant must make application for the certificate within  
20 five (5) years of the date the Board notifies the candidate that the  
21 candidate has successfully passed all sections of the C.P.A.  
22 Examination. If the candidate fails to make application for the  
23 certificate within five (5) years, the candidate must provide  
24 documentation showing he or she has completed at least one hundred

1 twenty (120) hours of qualifying continuing public accountancy  
2 education completed within the three-year period immediately  
3 preceding the date the individual applies for certification. The  
4 Board shall establish rules whereby time limits set for application  
5 pursuant to this provision may, upon written application to the  
6 Board, be waived or reduced if the candidate is called to active  
7 military service or becomes incapacitated as a result of illness or  
8 injury or for such other good causes as determined by the Board on a  
9 case-by-case basis.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE  
12 February 20, 2023 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS  
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