

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2736

By: Kendrix

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8 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to professions and occupations;
10 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.8, as last amended
11 by Section 1, Chapter 25, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.
12 2024, Section 15.8), which relates to accountant
13 examination qualifications; amending 59 O.S. 2021,
14 Section 15.9, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
15 25, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 15.9),
16 which relates to certification; modifying
17 requirements for checking criminal history records;
18 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.13, as amended by
19 Section 6, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp.
20 2024, Section 15.13), which relates to out-of-state
21 licensees; modifying criminal history record check
22 requirement; and providing an effective date.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.8, as
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 25, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.
2024, 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, except as otherwise provided in this
9 section. ~~The costs associated with the national criminal history~~
10 ~~records search shall be paid by the applicant.~~

11 B. On or after ~~the effective date of this act~~ November 1, 2025,
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 twenty (120) semester hours, or the
15 equivalent thereof, of college education including a baccalaureate
16 or higher degree, or the equivalent thereof, conferred by a college
17 or university acceptable to the Board from an accredited four-year
18 college or university in this state or any other accredited four-
19 year college or university recognized by the Board. The total
20 educational program of the applicant for examination shall include
21 an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined
22 acceptable by the Board which shall include not less than twenty-
23 four (24) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, in accounting
24 courses above principles of accounting or introductory accounting,

1 with at least one course in auditing or assurance; the remaining
2 accounting courses shall be selected from financial accounting,
3 accounting theory, cost/managerial accounting, federal income tax,
4 governmental, not-for-profit accounting, accounting information
5 systems, accounting history and other accounting electives; at least
6 nine (9) semester hours shall be from any or all of the subjects of
7 economics, statistics, business law, finance, business management,
8 marketing, business communication, risk management, insurance,
9 management information systems, or computer science at the upper-
10 division level of college or above or the equivalent of such
11 subjects as determined by the Board; all the remaining semester
12 hours, if any, shall be elective.

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

15 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.9, as
16 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 25, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.
17 2024, Section 15.9), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 15.9. A. Upon payment of appropriate fees, the
19 Oklahoma Accountancy Board shall grant a certificate to any
20 individual of good character who meets the applicable education,
21 experience and testing requirements provided for in this section and
22 in Sections 15.8 and 15.10 of this title. For purposes of this
23 subsection, good character means an individual who does not have a
24 history of dishonest acts as demonstrated by documented evidence and

1 has not been convicted, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a
2 felony charge. The Board may refuse to grant a certificate to an
3 applicant for failure to satisfy the requirement of good character.
4 The Board shall provide to the denied applicant written notification
5 specifying grounds for denial of a certificate including failure to
6 meet the good character criterion. Appeal of the action of the
7 Board may be made in accordance with the provisions of the
8 Administrative Procedures Act.

9 B. The Board shall issue certificates as certified public
10 accountants to those applicants who have met the qualifications
11 required by the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act and the
12 applicable rules of the Board, and have passed an examination in
13 accounting, auditing and related subjects as the Board determines
14 appropriate with such grades that satisfy the Board that each
15 applicant is competent to practice as a certified public accountant.

16 C. The Board may make use of ~~all or any part of~~ the Uniform
17 Certified Public Accountant Examination and any organization that
18 assists in providing the examination.

19 D. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate pursuant
20 to this section shall show that the applicant has at least one
21 hundred fifty (150) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, of
22 college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree, or the
23 equivalent thereof, conferred by a college or university acceptable
24 to the Board from an accredited four-year college or university in

1 this state or any other accredited four-year college or university
2 recognized by the Board. Of the one hundred fifty (150) semester
3 hours, not less than thirty (30) semester hours, or the equivalent
4 thereof, shall be in accounting courses above principles of
5 accounting or introductory accounting. These education requirements
6 shall have been completed prior to submitting an application to the
7 Board and within the time frame outlined in this section. A
8 qualified applicant may take the certified public accountant
9 examination as allowed in Section 15.8 of this title but shall not
10 be issued a certificate until the ~~education~~ requirements pursuant to
11 this section and Section 15.8 of this title have been met.

12 E. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate under
13 this section shall show that the applicant has had one (1) year of
14 experience. Experience shall be defined by the Board by rule and
15 shall include providing a type of service or advice involving the
16 use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory,
17 financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, and be satisfied
18 through work experience in government, industry, academia or public
19 practice, all of which shall be verified by a certificate or license
20 holder or an individual approved by the Board. Upon completion of
21 the requirements of Section 15.8 of this title, a qualified
22 applicant for the examination may take the certified public
23 accountant or public accountant examination prior to earning the
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1 experience required in this subsection, but shall not be issued a
2 certificate until the experience requirement has been met.

3 F. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public
4 accountant shall provide evidence of successful completion of an
5 ethics examination prescribed by the Board.

6 G. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public
7 accountant shall submit to a national criminal history record check
8 in accordance with Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
9 Statutes. Results of national criminal history record checks shall
10 be provided to the Oklahoma Accountancy Board by the Oklahoma State
11 Bureau of Investigation. Criminal history record check results are
12 confidential and shall not be disseminated outside the Oklahoma
13 Accountancy Board. The costs associated with the national criminal
14 history record check shall be paid by the applicant.

15 H. An individual applying for a certificate as a certified
16 public accountant must make an application for the certificate
17 within five (5) years of the date the Board notifies the candidate
18 that the candidate has successfully passed all sections of the
19 C.P.A. Examination. If the candidate fails to make an application
20 for the certificate within five (5) years, the candidate must
21 provide documentation showing he or she has completed at least one
22 hundred twenty (120) hours of qualifying continuing public
23 accountancy education completed within the three-year period
24 immediately preceding the date the individual applies for

1 certification. The Board shall establish rules whereby time limits
2 set for application pursuant to this provision may, upon written
3 application to the Board, be waived or reduced if the candidate is
4 called to active military service or becomes incapacitated as a
5 result of illness or injury or for such other good causes as
6 determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

7 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.13, as
8 amended by Section 6, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2024,
9 Section 15.13), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 15.13. A. The Oklahoma Accountancy Board may issue a
11 certificate to an applicant who has been authorized to practice
12 public accounting as a certified public accountant pursuant to the
13 laws of any jurisdiction if the applicant passed a test administered
14 for the purpose of authorizing an individual to practice as a
15 certified public accountant with grades which were equivalent to
16 passing a test for the same purpose in this state as of the date the
17 applicant originally passed the examination, and the applicant:

18 1. Meets the requirements for issuance of a certificate in this
19 state on the date of making application;

20 2. Met, on the date the certificate was issued by the other
21 jurisdiction, the requirements in effect on that date for issuance
22 of a certificate in this state; or
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1 3. Met, on the date of becoming a candidate in another
2 jurisdiction, the requirements of becoming a candidate in this
3 state, except for residency.

4 B. In the event an applicant does not meet the requirements of
5 subsection A of this section, but has passed a test administered for
6 the purpose of authorizing an individual to practice as a certified
7 public accountant with grades which were equivalent to passing a
8 test for the same purpose in this state on the date the applicant
9 passed the examination, the Board may issue a certificate to an
10 applicant if such applicant has four (4) years of experience
11 practicing public accounting as a certified public accountant
12 pursuant to the laws of any jurisdiction. Such experience must have
13 occurred within the ten (10) years immediately preceding the
14 application. Experience acceptable to satisfy the requirements of
15 this subsection shall be determined by standards established by the
16 Board.

17 C. An applicant who is seeking a permit to practice under this
18 section must also provide satisfactory documentation to the Board
19 that such applicant has met the continuing professional education
20 requirements, as provided in Section 15.35 of this title, in effect
21 on the date of the application.

22 D. The Board may issue a certificate by reciprocity to the
23 extent required by treaties entered into by the government of the
24 United States.

1 E. A fee in the amount equal to the registration fee and permit
2 fee, if applicable, plus an administrative fee, the total of which
3 shall not exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), shall be paid by
4 an applicant seeking a certificate pursuant to the provisions of
5 this section. The total amount shall be established by Board rule.

6 F. On or after July 1, 2005, an applicant for the certificate
7 of certified public accountant under this section shall provide
8 evidence of successful completion of an ethics examination
9 prescribed by the Board.

10 G. As an alternative to the requirements of subsection A, B or
11 C of this section, a certificate holder licensed by another
12 jurisdiction who establishes the certificate holder's principal
13 place of business in this state shall request the issuance of a
14 certificate from the Board prior to establishing such principal
15 place of business. The Board shall issue a certificate to such
16 person who obtains from the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal
17 Service verification that such individual's CPA qualifications are
18 substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of the
19 AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act.

20 H. An applicant for the certificate of certified public
21 accountant under this section shall submit to a national criminal
22 history record check in accordance with Section 150.9 of Title 74 of
23 the Oklahoma Statutes. Results of national criminal history record
24 checks shall be provided to the Oklahoma Accountancy Board by the

1 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Criminal history record
2 check results are confidential and shall not be disseminated outside
3 the Oklahoma Accountancy Board. The costs associated with the
4 national criminal history record check shall be paid by the
5 applicant.

6 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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