

Proponent Testimony – HB 442

By

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The Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee. The office of the committee chairman, Senator Rob McColley, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 442. I am Terence Pitre, Ph.D., Department Chair of Accounting and MIS, Director of the Master of Accounting Program (MAcc) at Bowling Green State University.

I wanted to take moment to applaud the Legislature’s current regulatory reform efforts, including eliminating barriers to taking (“sitting”) the CPA exam for Ohioans. Per the joint sponsors Representatives Roemer and West, HB 442 seeks to ease the regulatory requirements for Ohioans who want to become Certified Public Accountants by allowing them to take the CPA exam after earning 120 credit hours instead of waiting until they complete 150 credit hours. I believe this legislation is necessary and wise for current and future accounting majors and the profession. Most states only require a bachelor’s degree (120 credit hours) to take (“sit”) the CPA exam. Being able to take the exam after earning 120 credit hours makes practical since students are not required to obtain the additional 30 credit hours in the accounting discipline per se. In fact, the changing landscape of the accounting profession mandates that candidates have a more broad and diversified background in which case students typically opt for courses outside of accounting (i.e., Analytics or Information Systems). Essentially, **students take extra courses to maximize their ability to be successful in their career long-term, not to increase the likelihood of passing the CPA exam.** Additionally, while the CPA exam is changing in response to the professional demands, it is still more focused on standard accounting topics. Allowing students to begin to take the exam after earning 120 credit hours is practical since performance will be enhanced by taking the exam in closer proximity to when the material is learned. Consequently, many students, at the advice of the mentors and faculty, opt to take the exam after completing 120 credit hours by registering in a state (i.e., Michigan) that does permit examination after 120 credit hours. +

Additionally, it should be emphasized that many top accounting programs are integrating CPA Exam review courses (i.e., Becker or Gleim) into their curriculums. This is because success on the CPA exam is enhanced more by CPA course preparatory than by additional accounting courses. BGSU began such an integration in the Summer of 2020, much to the fanfare of students since they realized the importance of specific exam preparatory courses.

In summary, I support and endorse HB-442. It is necessary and time for this progressive move. I’ll be happy to provide in person testimony as well if needed.

Sincerely,

Terence Pitre, Ph.D.