

As Reported by the House Commerce and Labor Committee

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

Sub. H. B. No. 442

Representatives Roemer, West

Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Scherer, Cross, Seitz, Lipps, Zeltwanger, Riedel, Miranda, Miller, J., Carruthers, Richardson, Blair, Ingram, Sheehy, Jordan

A BILL

To amend sections 4701.06 and 4701.17 of the 1
Revised Code to modify the requirements to 2
obtain a certified public accountant 3
certificate. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4701.06 and 4701.17 of the 5
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4701.06. (A) The accountancy board shall grant the 7
certificate of "certified public accountant" to any person who 8
satisfies the following requirements: 9

~~(A)~~ (1) The person is a resident of this state or has a 10
place of business in this state or, as an employee, is regularly 11
employed in this state. The board may determine by rule 12
circumstances under which the residency requirement may be 13
waived. 14

~~(B)~~ (2) The person has attained the age of eighteen years. 15

~~(C)~~ (3) The person is of good moral character. 16

~~(D)(4)~~ The person meets the following requirements of education and experience:

~~(1)(a) Prior to January 1, 2000, graduation with a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or university recognized by the board, with a concentration in accounting that includes related courses in other areas of business administration, or what the board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the foregoing;~~

~~(b) On and after January 1, 2000, graduation (a)~~
Graduation with a baccalaureate or higher degree that includes successful completion of one hundred fifty semester hours of undergraduate or graduate education. The board by rule shall specify graduate degrees that satisfy this requirement and also by rule shall require any subjects that it considers appropriate. The total educational program shall include an accounting concentration with related courses in other areas of business administration, as defined by board rule.

~~(2)(a) The experience requirement for candidates meeting the educational requirements set forth in division (D)(1)(a) or (b) of this section is~~ (b) Acquisition of one year of experience satisfactory to the board in any of the following:

- (i) A public accounting firm;
- (ii) Government;
- (iii) Business;
- (iv) Academia.

~~(b) Except as provided in division (D)(2)(c) of this section, the experience requirement for any candidate who, on and after January 1, 2000, does not meet the educational~~

~~requirement set forth in division (D) (1) (b) of this section is 45
four years of experience described in division (D) (2) (a) of this 46
section. The experience requirement for any candidate who, prior 47
to January 1, 2000, does not meet the educational requirement 48
set forth in division (D) (1) (a) of this section is two years of 49
experience described in division (D) (2) (a) of this section. 50~~

~~(c) On and after January 1, 2000, the experience 51
requirement for any candidate who, subsequent to obtaining a 52
baccalaureate or higher degree, other than a baccalaureate or 53
higher degree described in division (D) (1) (b) of this section, 54
successfully completes coursework that meets the educational 55
requirement set forth in division (D) (1) (b) of this section is 56
two years of experience described in division (D) (2) (a) of this 57
section. 58~~

~~(E) (5) The person has passed an examination that is 59
administered in the manner and that covers the subjects that the 60
board prescribes by rule. In adopting the relevant rules, the 61
board shall ensure to the extent possible that the examination, 62
the examination process, and the examination's passing standard 63
are uniform with the examinations, examination processes, and 64
examination passing standards of all other states and may 65
provide for the use of all or parts of the uniform certified 66
public accountant examination and advisory grading service of 67
the American institute of certified public accountants. The 68
board may contract with third parties to perform administrative 69
services that relate to the examination and that the board 70
determines are appropriate in order to assist the board in 71
performing its duties in relation to the examination. 72~~

~~None of the educational requirements specified in division 73
(D) of this section apply to a candidate who has a PA 74~~

~~registration, but the~~ (B) (1) The experience requirement for ~~the a~~ 75
candidate who does not meet ~~those~~the educational requirements 76
under division (A) (4) (a) of this section because the board has 77
waived them under division (B) (2) of this section is four years 78
of the experience described in division ~~(D) (2) (a)~~ (A) (4) (b) of 79
this section. 80

~~Prior to January 1, 2000, the board shall waive the~~ 81
~~educational requirement set forth in division (D) (1) (a) of this~~ 82
~~section for any candidate if it finds that the candidate has~~ 83
~~attained the equivalent education by attendance at a business~~ 84
~~school, by self study, or otherwise, and if it is satisfied from~~ 85
~~the results of special examinations that the board gives the~~ 86
~~candidate to test the candidate's educational qualifications~~ 87
~~that the candidate is as well equipped, educationally, as if the~~ 88
~~candidate met the applicable educational requirement specified~~ 89
~~in division (D) (1) (a) of this section.~~ 90

~~On and after January 1, 2000, the~~ (2) The board shall 91
waive the educational requirement set forth in division ~~(D) (1)~~ 92
~~(b)~~ (A) (4) (a) of this section for any candidate if the board 93
finds that the candidate has obtained from an accredited college 94
or university approved by the board, either an associate degree 95
or a baccalaureate degree, other than a baccalaureate degree 96
described in division ~~(D) (1) (b)~~ (A) (4) (a) of this section, with 97
a concentration in accounting that includes related courses in 98
other areas of business administration, and if the board is 99
satisfied from the results of special examinations that the 100
board gives the candidate to test the candidate's educational 101
qualification that the candidate is as well equipped, 102
educationally, as if the candidate met the applicable 103
educational requirement specified in division ~~(D) (1) (b)~~ (A) (4) 104
(a) of this section. 105

The board shall provide by rule for the general scope of 106
any special examinations for a waiver of the educational 107
requirements under division ~~(D) (1) (a) or (b)~~ (A) (4) (a) of this 108
section and may obtain any advice and assistance that it 109
considers appropriate to assist it in preparing and grading 110
those special examinations. The board may use any existing 111
examinations or may prepare any number of new examinations to 112
assist in determining the equivalent training of a candidate. 113
The board by rule shall prescribe any special examinations for a 114
waiver of the educational requirements under division ~~(D) (1) (a)~~ 115
~~or (b)~~ (A) (4) (a) of this section and the passing score required 116
for each examination. 117

~~The board shall hold the examination referred to in 118
division (E) of this section and the special examinations for a 119
waiver of the educational requirements under division (D) (1) (a) 120
or (b) of this section as often as the board determines to be 121
desirable, but the examination referred to in division (E) of 122
this section shall be held not less frequently than once each 123
year. The board by rule may provide for granting credit to a 124
candidate for satisfactory completion of an examination that a 125
licensing authority of another state gave in one or more of the 126
subjects referred to in division (E) of this section. 127~~

(C) ~~A candidate who has met the educational requirements,~~ 128
~~or with respect to whom they either do not apply or have been~~ 129
~~waived,~~ graduated with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent 130
or a higher degree that includes successful completion of at 131
least one hundred twenty semester hours of undergraduate or 132
graduate education is eligible to take the examination referred 133
to in division ~~(E)~~ (A) (5) of this section without waiting until 134
the candidate meets the education or experience requirements, 135
provided the candidate also meets the requirements of divisions 136

(A) (1) and ~~(C)~~ (3) of this section. The board by rule shall 137
specify degrees that make a candidate eligible under this 138
division and by rule shall require any subjects that it 139
considers appropriate. A candidate who holds a master's degree 140
in business administration and has successfully completed at 141
least fifteen semester hours of accounting courses is eligible 142
to take the examination referred to in division (A) (5) of this 143
section without waiting until the candidate meets the education 144
or experience requirements, provided the candidate also meets 145
the requirements of divisions (A) (1) and (3) of this section. 146

(D) A candidate for the certificate of certified public 147
accountant who has successfully completed the examination under 148
division ~~(E)~~ (A) (5) of this section has no status as a certified 149
public accountant, unless and until the candidate has the 150
requisite education and experience and has received a 151
certificate as a certified public accountant. The board shall 152
determine and charge a fee for issuing the certificate that is 153
adequate to cover the expense. 154

(E) The board by rule may prescribe the terms and 155
conditions under which a candidate who passes part but not all 156
of the examination may retake the examination. It also may 157
provide by rule for a reasonable waiting period for a 158
candidate's reexamination. 159

The applicable educational and experience requirements 160
under ~~division (D)~~ divisions (A) (4), (B), and (C) of this section 161
shall be those in effect on the date on which the candidate 162
first sits for the examination. 163

(F) The board shall charge a candidate a reasonable fee, 164
to be determined by the board, that is adequate to cover all 165
rentals, compensation for proctors, and other administrative 166

expenses of the board related to examination or reexamination, 167
including the expenses of procuring and grading the examination 168
provided for in division ~~(E)~~ (A) (5) of this section and for any 169
special examinations for a waiver of the educational 170
requirements under division ~~(D) (1) (a) or (b)~~ (A) (4) (a) of this 171
section. Fees for reexamination under division (E) of this 172
section shall be charged by the board in amounts determined by 173
it. The applicable fees shall be paid by the candidate at the 174
time the candidate applies for examination or reexamination. 175

(G) Any person who has received from the board a 176
certificate as a certified public accountant and who holds an 177
Ohio permit shall be styled and known as a "certified public 178
accountant" and also may use the abbreviation "CPA." The board 179
shall maintain a list of certified public accountants. Any 180
certified public accountant also may be known as a "public 181
accountant." 182

(H) Persons who, on the effective date of an amendment of 183
this section, held certified public accountant certificates 184
previously issued under the laws of this state shall not be 185
required to obtain additional certificates under this section 186
but shall otherwise be subject to all provisions of this 187
section, and those previously issued certificates, for all 188
purposes, shall be considered certificates issued under this 189
section and subject to its provisions. 190

(I) The board may waive the examination under division ~~(E)~~ 191
(A) (5) of this section and, upon payment of a fee determined by 192
it, may issue a certificate as a "certified public accountant" 193
to any person who possesses the qualifications specified in 194
divisions (A) (1), ~~(B) (2)~~, and ~~(C) (3)~~ of this section and what 195
the board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the 196

applicable qualifications under division ~~(D)~~(A) (4) of this 197
section and who is the holder of a certificate as a certified 198
public accountant, then in full force and effect, issued under 199
the laws of any state, or is the holder of a certificate, 200
license, or degree in a foreign country that constitutes a 201
recognized qualification for the practice of public accounting 202
in that country, that is comparable to that of a certified 203
public accountant of this state, and that is then in full force 204
and effect. 205

Sec. 4701.17. Upon application in writing and after 206
hearing pursuant to notice, the accountancy board may reissue or 207
reinstate a certificate to a certified public accountant whose 208
certificate has been revoked or suspended or reregister anyone 209
whose registration has been revoked or suspended. 210

The board may require a reasonable waiting period, 211
commensurate with the offense, before a certificate holder or 212
registrant whose certificate or registration has been revoked or 213
suspended may apply to have the certificate or registration 214
reissued or reinstated. The board may require compliance with 215
any or all requirements of section 4701.06 of the Revised Code, 216
including the taking of any examination described in division 217
~~(E)~~(A) (5) of that section as a prerequisite for recertification. 218
The board may require compliance with any or all of the 219
requirements of section 4701.07 of the Revised Code, including 220
the taking of any examination described in division (E) of that 221
section as a prerequisite for reregistration. 222

Section 2. That existing sections 4701.06 and 4701.17 of 223
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 224