

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	3 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Deckert, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	George L., Monnes Anderson
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies statutes relating to licensing requirements for public accountants, licensed chartered accountants, and applicants under “substantial equivalency” provisions. Specifies that substantial equivalency provisions for licensing out-of-state accountants are determined by Oregon statute and the Oregon Board of Accountancy instead of the model Uniform Accountancy Act. Establishes that only chartered accountants who are licensed by a foreign country recognized by the Oregon Board of Accountancy are eligible for a reciprocal license in Oregon. Removes obsolete requirements relating to the Uniform Certificate of Public Accountant Exam.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether Oregon should have different standards than the model Uniform Accountancy Act
- Pending changes to the model Uniform Accountancy Act
- Purpose of proposed statutory changes
- Flexibility of new exams due to the change from a paper-based process to a computer-based process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Retains current authority for the board to determine requirements for public accountancy experience without requiring rulemaking.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2079-A specifies that out-of-state accountants licensed under “substantial equivalency” are equivalent to current statute (ORS Chapter 673) versus the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA). The UAA is model accountancy legislation developed by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Substantial equivalency is a provision of the UAA; if a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) holds a license in good standing from a state with CPA licensing criteria that are essentially equal to those outlined in the UAA, the CPA can practice in another state that is not his or her principal place of business.

House Bill 2079-A establishes that only chartered accountants (a term used in many foreign countries) who are licensed by a foreign country recognized by the Oregon Board of Accountancy are eligible for a reciprocal license in Oregon. It also requires applicants for a public accountant license (a different license than a CPA) are required to successfully complete designated sections of the CPA Exam, and are required to meet experience requirements established by the board to demonstrate eligibility to take the CPA Exam and also to qualify for a public accountant license. The measure, however, removes the requirement for CPA Exam applicants from other jurisdictions to pass at least two sections of the exam in order to receive credit in Oregon, as this requirement is no longer necessary under the computer-based exam made available by the board in 2004.

3/29/2007 4:47:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.