

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 3 - 0 - 2

**Yeas:** George, Schrader, Metsger

**Nays:** -

**Exc.:** Starr, Verger

**Prepared By:** Jim Stembridge, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25, 4/20, 4/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes accountants licensed in other states to practice public accountancy in Oregon, if the accountants' requirements for licensing or qualifications are substantially equivalent to Oregon's, without notification or payment of fees to the Oregon Board of Accountancy. Places Board of Accountancy permit fees in statute at annual rates of \$160 for initial application or renewal and \$175 for business organization. Provides authority for the Board to censure an accountant licensed in another state. Directs Board to investigate complaints made by another state's accountancy board. Authorizes the Board to discipline an Oregon licensee for the licensee's actions in another state. Effects provisions January 1, 2010. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- State-by-state Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensing, and their differing requirements
- Hours of required training, including 150-hour standard
- Current registration and fee required of out-of-state CPAs
- Current cross-state-lines business operations
- "Driver's license" approach to reciprocity efforts
- Discipline authority of the State Board of Accountancy
- Enforcement problem when it is not known that an out-of-state CPA is operating in Oregon
- Fiscal aspects of amendment, date of most recent fee increase (1999)

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Places Board of Accountancy permit fees in statute at annual rates of \$160 for initial application or renewal and \$175 for business organization. Directs Board to investigate complaints made by another state's accountancy board. Clarifies definition of "substantial equivalency."

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Accountancy licenses and regulates Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and Public Accountants (PAs) in Oregon, assuring that approximately 8,500 CPAs, PAs, municipal auditors and public accounting firms registered to practice in Oregon demonstrate and maintain professional competency. The Board is authorized by ORS chapter 673 to establish and enforce standards and regulations and license qualified applicants to practice public accountancy in Oregon.

Oregon participates in reciprocity with other states, if the other states' licensing is substantially equivalent to Oregon's. Most states, with the notable exceptions of California (unless licensed under section 5093), Colorado, Delaware, Florida, New Hampshire, and Vermont, are substantially equivalent. Substantially-equivalent licensees are eligible to apply and pay the \$300 fee for an Authorization for Transfer from the Oregon Board of Accountancy. Individuals from other states may also qualify for performing accountancy in Oregon through individual substantial equivalency. The annual fee is \$100.

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