



Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants

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77th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2014 Regular Session

Exemption for Certified Public Accountants from Provisions Regulating Private Investigators

Re: Hearing – Senate Bill 1549

DATE: February 11, 2014

BACKGROUND:

Some CPA related activities could be interpreted to fall within the broad definitions in private investigator licensure, ORS 703.411, even though CPAs are already required to be licensed by the Oregon Board of Accountancy. This could cause unneeded dual licensure.

OSCPA POSITION:

The Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) respectfully requests an exemption for CPAs and their employees from ORS 703.411. CPAs are frequently engaged to perform analysis of financial data to determine whether fraud or other wrongdoing has occurred, to identify and assist in the recovery of missing funds, and for many other reasons. Such activities and numerous others are a traditional part of CPA practice and are of great benefit to clients and to the public at large.

The purpose of investigator statute is to protect the public by establishing regulatory oversight over investigators – not CPAs and other professionals performing activities that might have an investigatory component or to require such professionals to obtain an additional license. With exemption, the public will continue to be protected by the regulatory structures that govern the accounting profession.

CPAs are highly trained and must meet rigorous criteria to obtain their licenses. Oregon CPA licensure (and most states) requires at least 150 hours of college-level education, a year of supervised experience, and all must pass the difficult Uniform CPA Examination. CPAs are required to abide by detailed professional standards including a code of conduct, and are subject to multiple levels of regulation.

Additionally, the Oregon Board of Accountancy is empowered to suspend or revoke CPA licenses – or take other disciplinary action – if CPAs violate applicable laws, regulations or professional standards including code of conduct.

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