



Oregon

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Before the House Committee on Business and Labor

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SB 1549

Testimony of Martin Pittioni, Executive Director
Board of Accountancy

Chair Rep. Doharty, Vice-Chairs Reps. Barton and Kennemer, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Martin Pittioni. I am the Executive Director of the Board of Accountancy and appearing before you in support of Senate Bill 1549.

My testimony focuses more specifically on why the Board of Accountancy (BOA) is involved in this bill, and appears before you today with permission from the Governor's Office to take a formal position in favor of this bill. As you are aware from previous testimony, the bill exempts persons authorized to engage in public accountancy in this state, and their employees while performing work duties for those authorized persons, from provisions regulating investigators, including a licensure requirement administered by the Department of Public Safety and Standards and Training (DPSST).

For BOA, this bill solves a problem affecting its compliance operations, as CPA credentialed investigators hired by the Board to assist in its compliance investigations (a critical tool for BOA) could currently be in violation of DPSST statute if they do not obtain a second State of Oregon license through DPSST. There is no good public policy reason why such a dual-licensure hurdle should exist – regardless of whether licensees are working in an investigatory capacity for the Board or someone else. Licensees of this Board who engage in investigatory work as part of their practice are already fully accountable to this Board for that conduct. BOA has been pleased to work closely with the main professional society, OSCP, and DPSST to ensure the language as introduced and before you now works well for the two state agencies affected, and the regulated community of CPAs.

Many states that have a Private Investigator licensure requirement have already recognized the need for carve-out exemptions for those already licensed in their professions, such as engineers, attorneys and CPAs. In Oregon that public policy is already in place for engineers and attorneys, and this bill simply expands that common sense to CPAs authorized to practice in Oregon. BOA would appreciate your support of this legislation as introduced, and would like to thank OSCP and Senator Burdick as sponsor for bringing this bill to you. I also would like to thank DPSST for their help in crafting language and supporting this work.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions by the Committee.

