

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act modifies the experience and education required to take the CPA exam and to be a CPA. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.6).

Modifies experience and education requirements to take the certified public accountant examination and qualify for a certificate of certified public accountant.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to requirements to become a certified public accountant; creating
3 new provisions; and amending ORS 673.010, 673.040 and 673.050.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 673.040 is amended to read:

6 673.040. *[(1) A certificate of certified public accountant shall be issued to*
7 *any applicant who meets the requirements of this section and ORS 673.060 and*
8 *who passes an examination on the code of professional ethics adopted by the*
9 *Oregon Board of Accountancy.]*

10 *[(2) An applicant for a certificate shall show that after meeting the eligi-*
11 *bility requirements for the examination required by ORS 673.050, the applicant*
12 *has had at least one year of experience, meeting requirements prescribed by the*
13 *board by rule, that is verified by a public accountant, certified public ac-*
14 *countant or chartered accountant who:]*

15 *[(a) Is licensed and in good standing in this state or another jurisdiction;*
16 *and]*

17 *[(b) Has been licensed for a minimum period of time set by the board by*
18 *rule.]*

19 *[(3) The board may issue a certificate to a holder in good standing of a li-*

1 *cense of certified public accountant issued by another state or of a chartered*
2 *accountant certificate issued by a foreign country recognized by the board upon*
3 *a showing that the holder meets requirements that are substantially equivalent*
4 *to the education, experience and other requirements that must be satisfied for*
5 *the issuance of a certificate of certified public accountant under ORS 673.010*
6 *to 673.465.]*

7 [(4) *The board shall charge a fee for each application for issuance of a*
8 *certificate under this section in an amount prescribed by the board by rule.]*

9 [(5) *An applicant for a certificate shall have completed 150 semester hours*
10 *or 225 quarter hours of college education as prescribed by the board by rule.]*

11 **(1) The Oregon Board of Accountancy may issue a certificate of**
12 **certified public accountant to a person who:**

13 **(a) Submits an application in a form prescribed by the board;**

14 **(b) Provides evidence satisfactory to the board of graduation from**
15 **a college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting as-**
16 **sociation or by another accrediting body that is recognized by the**
17 **board;**

18 **(c) Provides evidence satisfactory to the board of experience, as**
19 **follows:**

20 **(A) If the applicant has obtained a baccalaureate degree, two years**
21 **or more of experience that meets requirements prescribed by the board**
22 **by rule;**

23 **(B) If the applicant has obtained a master's degree, one year or**
24 **more of experience that meets requirements prescribed by the board**
25 **by rule; or**

26 **(C) If the applicant has obtained a baccalaureate degree or higher**
27 **and has completed at least 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours of**
28 **college education, one year or more of experience that meets require-**
29 **ments prescribed by the board by rule; and**

30 **(d) Pays the application fee required by the board by rule.**

31 **(2) All experience obtained by an applicant as described in sub-**

1 **section (1) of this section must be verified by a certified public ac-**
2 **countant, public accountant or chartered accountant who:**

3 **(a) Is licensed and in good standing with the professional licensing**
4 **board that issued the person's license; and**

5 **(b) Has been licensed for a minimum period of time set by the board**
6 **by rule.**

7 **(3) In addition to the requirements provided in subsections (1) and**
8 **(2) of this section, the applicant shall provide evidence satisfactory to**
9 **the board of the following:**

10 **(a) Passing an examination on the code of professional ethics**
11 **adopted by the board;**

12 **(b) Meeting the requirements of ORS 673.050 for admission to the**
13 **certified public accountant examination; and**

14 **(c) Passing all sections of the certified public accountant examina-**
15 **tion.**

16 **(4) A certificate issued under this section is valid for two years. To**
17 **renew, a person shall comply with the requirements described in ORS**
18 **673.150.**

19 **SECTION 2.** ORS 673.050 is amended to read:

20 *673.050. [(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a candidate*
21 *for admission to the examination for a certified public accountant certificate*
22 *shall present satisfactory evidence of graduation with a baccalaureate or*
23 *higher degree from a college or university that is accredited by one of the six*
24 *regional accrediting associations or by another accrediting body that is recog-*
25 *nized by the Oregon Board of Accountancy, and shall have completed 120 or*
26 *more semester hours or 180 or more quarter hours or the equivalent thereof,*
27 *including courses in the study of accounting, business, economics, finance,*
28 *written and oral communications and other subjects as determined by the*
29 *board as appropriate for the accountancy profession.]*

30 *[(2) A person may apply to take the examination for the certificate of cer-*
31 *tified public accountant for the purpose of obtaining a license as a public ac-*

1 *countant under ORS 673.100 if the person presents satisfactory evidence of*
2 *graduation from a high school with a four-year course or of having acquired*
3 *an equivalent education, and has completed two years of public accountancy*
4 *experience or the equivalent that meets the experience requirements established*
5 *by the board by rule.]*

6 **(1) A person seeking admission to take the certified public ac-**
7 **countant examination to obtain a certificate of certified public ac-**
8 **countant under ORS 673.040 or a license as a public accountant under**
9 **ORS 673.100 shall:**

10 **(a) Submit an application in a form prescribed by the Oregon Board**
11 **of Accountancy;**

12 **(b) Furnish evidence satisfactory to the board of the applicant's**
13 **good moral character;**

14 **(c) Pay an examination fee as prescribed by the board; and**

15 **(d) Provide one of the following:**

16 **(A) For a person applying for admission to take the certified public**
17 **accountant examination to obtain a certificate of certified public ac-**
18 **countant, present evidence satisfactory to the board of:**

19 **(i) Graduation with a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college**
20 **or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting association**
21 **or by another accrediting body that is recognized by the board; and**

22 **(ii) Completed courses in the study of accounting, business, eco-**
23 **nomics, finance, written and oral communications and other subjects**
24 **as prescribed by the board by rule as appropriate for the accountancy**
25 **profession; or**

26 **(B) For a person applying for admission to take the certified public**
27 **accountant examination to obtain a license as a public accountant,**
28 **present evidence satisfactory to the board of:**

29 **(i) Graduation from a high school with a diploma or of having ac-**
30 **quired an equivalent education; and**

31 **(ii) Two years of public accountancy experience or the equivalent**

1 **that meets the experience requirements established by the board by**
2 **rule.**

3 **(2) The board shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this**
4 **section.**

5 **SECTION 3.** ORS 673.010 is amended to read:

6 673.010. As used in ORS 673.010 to 673.465:

7 (1) “Attestation services” means the following professional services re-
8 quired to be performed under rules adopted by the Oregon Board of
9 Accountancy:

10 (a) Any audit or other engagement for which performance standards are
11 included in the Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS);

12 (b) Any review of a financial statement for which performance standards
13 are included in the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review
14 Services (SSARS);

15 (c) Any examination of prospective financial information for which per-
16 formance standards are included in the Statements on Standards for
17 Attestation Engagements (SSAE);

18 (d) Any examination, review or agreed upon procedures engagement other
19 than an examination described in paragraph (c) of this subsection for which
20 performance standards are included in the Statements on Standards for
21 Attestation Engagements (SSAE); and

22 (e) Any engagement for which performance standards are included in the
23 Auditing Standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

24 (2) “Business organization” means any form of business organization au-
25 thorized by law, including but not limited to a proprietorship, partnership,
26 corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or pro-
27 fessional corporation.

28 (3) “Certificate” means a certificate of certified public accountant issued
29 under ORS 673.040.

30 (4) “Client” means a person who agrees with a licensee or employer of a
31 licensee to receive any professional service from the licensee or employer of

1 a licensee.

2 (5) "Commission" means money or other consideration recognized by the
3 Oregon Board of Accountancy as a commission by rule.

4 (6) "Compilation services" means professional services required to be
5 performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Accounting
6 and Review Services (SSARS) under rules adopted by the board in which the
7 person performing the services presents a financial statement that:

8 (a) Is based on the representation of the owner or management of the
9 company for which the statement is presented; and

10 (b) Does not include assurances by the person that the representations in
11 the financial statement conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

12 (7) "Contingent fee" means a fee established for the performance of any
13 professional service and directly or indirectly paid to a licensee pursuant to
14 an arrangement in which no fee will be charged unless a specified finding
15 or result is attained, or in which the amount of the fee is otherwise de-
16 pendent upon the finding or result of such service. A fee is not contingent
17 if the fee:

18 (a) Is fixed by courts or other public authorities; or

19 (b) In tax matters, is determined based on the results of judicial pro-
20 ceedings or the findings of governmental agencies.

21 (8) "License" means:

22 (a) A certificate, permit or registration, or a license issued under ORS
23 673.100, enabling the holder thereof to practice public accountancy in this
24 state; or

25 (b) A certificate, permit, registration or other authorization issued by a
26 jurisdiction outside this state enabling the holder thereof to practice public
27 accountancy in that jurisdiction.

28 (9) "Licensee" means the holder of a license as defined in subsection (8)(a)
29 of this section.

30 (10) "Manager" means a manager of a limited liability company.

31 (11) "Member" means a member of a limited liability company.

1 (12) “Peer review” means a study, appraisal or review of one or more as-
2 pects of the public accountancy work of a holder of a permit under ORS
3 673.150, or of a registered business organization that performs attestation
4 services or compilation services, that is conducted by:

5 (a) A certified public accountant who holds an active permit issued under
6 ORS 673.150 or an active license issued by the licensing authority for the
7 practice of public accountancy in another state and who is independent of
8 the permit holder or registered business organization being reviewed; or

9 (b) A public accountant who holds an active permit issued under ORS
10 673.150 and who is independent of the permit holder or registered business
11 organization being reviewed.

12 (13) “Permit” means a permit to practice public accountancy issued under
13 ORS 673.150.

14 (14) “Principal place of business” means the office location designated by
15 a person for purposes of substantial equivalency and reciprocity.

16 (15) “Professional” means arising out of or related to the specialized
17 knowledge or skills associated with certified public accountants and public
18 accountants.

19 (16) “Public accountant” means a public accountant licensed under ORS
20 673.100.

21 (17) “Referral fee” means a fee recognized by the board as a referral by
22 rule.

23 (18) “Registration” means the authority issued under ORS 673.160 by the
24 board to a business organization to practice public accountancy in this state.

25 (19)(a) “Report,” when used with reference to attestation services or
26 compilation services, means an opinion or other form of written language
27 that states or implies assurance as to the reliability of the attested infor-
28 mation or the compiled financial statements and that includes or is accom-
29 panied by a statement or implication that the person issuing the report has
30 special knowledge or competence in public accountancy. Such a statement
31 or implication of special knowledge or competence may arise from use by the

1 issuer of the report of names or titles indicating that the issuer is a public
2 accountancy professional or organization or may arise from the language of
3 the report itself.

4 (b) "Report" includes any form of written language that:

5 (A) Disclaims an opinion when the form of language implies any positive
6 assurance as to the reliability of the attested information or the compiled
7 financial statements referred to, or of the special knowledge or competence
8 on the part of the person issuing the language;

9 (B) Implies any positive assurance as to the reliability of the attested
10 information or compiled financial statements referred to, or of the special
11 knowledge or competence on the part of the person issuing the language; or

12 (C) Relates to the affairs of a person and that is conventionally used by
13 licensees in reports or financial statements.

14 (c) "Report" does not include:

15 (A) The following statement signed by a person who does not hold a cer-
16 tificate, license or permit under ORS 673.010 to 673.465 as long as the state-
17 ment is not accompanied by any wording indicating the person is an
18 accountant or auditor or any other language prohibited by ORS 673.310 or
19 673.320:

20

21 The accompanying balance sheet (or ____) of XYZ Company as of (date),
22 and the related statements of income (or retained earnings or cash flow) for
23 the year then ended have been prepared by me (us).

24 The information presented in these financial statements is the represen-
25 tation of management (owners).

26

27 (B) Any other financial statements or reports that are not and do not
28 purport to be in compliance with national standards, including but not lim-
29 ited to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services
30 (SSARS) and Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE)
31 adopted by the board by rule, when the statements or reports are issued by

1 persons not otherwise subject to regulation by the board under ORS 673.010
2 to 673.465.

3 (20) “State” means any state, territory or insular possession of the United
4 States, and the District of Columbia.

5 [(21) “Substantial equivalency” means that:]

6 [(a) An individual holds a valid license as a certified public accountant
7 from another state that requires an individual, as a condition of licensure as
8 a certified public accountant, to:]

9 [(A) Complete at least 150 semester hours of college education and obtain
10 a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university;]

11 [(B) Achieve a passing grade on the Uniform Certified Public Accountant
12 Examination; and]

13 [(C) Possess at least one year of experience, verified by a licensee, providing
14 any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attestation, com-
15 pilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or related consulting
16 skills, obtained through public practice or government, industry or academic
17 work; or]

18 [(b) An individual has the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) of this
19 subsection and holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from an-
20 other state that does not require an individual to have the qualifications
21 specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection as a condition of licensure as a
22 certified public accountant.]

23 **(21) “Substantial equivalency” means an individual holds a license**
24 **from another state that requires an individual, as a condition of**
25 **licensure as a certified public accountant, to achieve a passing grade**
26 **on the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and:**

27 **(a) Complete at least 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours of**
28 **college education, obtain a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred**
29 **by a college or university and possess at least one year of experience,**
30 **verified by a license holder, in providing any type of service involving**
31 **the use of accounting, attestation, compilation, management advisory,**

1 **financial advisory, tax or related consulting skills, obtained through**
2 **public practice or government, industry or academic work;**

3 **(b) Obtain a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or univer-**
4 **sity and possess at least two years of experience:**

5 **(A) Verified by a license holder; and**

6 **(B) In providing any type of service or advice involving the use of**
7 **accounting, attestation, compilation, management advisory, financial**
8 **advisory, tax or related consulting skills, obtained through public**
9 **practice or government, industry or academic work;**

10 **(c) Obtain a master's degree conferred by a college or university**
11 **and possess at least one year of experience:**

12 **(A) Verified by a license holder; and**

13 **(B) In providing any type of service or advice involving the use of**
14 **accounting, attestation, compilation, management advisory, financial**
15 **advisory, tax or related consulting skills, obtained through public**
16 **practice or government, industry or academic work; or**

17 **(d) Meet requirements otherwise prescribed by the board.**

18 **SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 673.010, 673.040 and 673.050 by**
19 **sections 1 to 3 of this 2025 Act apply to individuals on and after the**
20 **effective date of this 2025 Act.**

21
