

HB 2523 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Decreases number of course hours required before person may sit for certified public accountant exam.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of certified public accountants nationally and in Oregon
- Change to statutory language on experiential learning requirement
- Measure does not reduce course hours required for licensure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Accountancy (Board) assures that approximately 9,400 Certified Public Accountants, Public Accountants, municipal auditors and public accounting firms, registered to practice in Oregon, demonstrate and maintain professional competency to serve the needs of their clients and other users of their services. The Board is authorized to establish and enforce standards and regulations and license qualified applications to practice public accountancy in Oregon.

Currently, to sit for the certified public accountant exam, a candidate must present evidence of graduation with a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university that is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations or by another accrediting body that is recognized by the Board. In addition, a candidate must have completed 150 or more semester hours, or 225 or more quarter hours, or an equivalent in courses that include accounting, business, economics, finance, written and oral communications, and any other subjects as determined by the Board as appropriate or the accountancy profession.

House Bill 2523 allows a person to sit for the certified public accountant examination when they have completed 120 semester hours or 180 quarter hours. The measure does not change the standards for licensure as a certified public accountant but permits a person to take the competency examination when they have completed four years, of the required five years, of education.