

From the Desk of SENATOR TIM KNOPP



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**OREGON ASSOCIATION
OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS**
COMMITTED TO TAX & ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS

Yes on HB 2523

March 8, 2023

Members of the Oregon Senate:

Today we wish to convey our strong support of HB 2523, which would enable Oregon CPA candidates to have the option of beginning to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination (exam) after completion of 120 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of baccalaureate coursework.

Currently, 46 of 55 jurisdictions* allow students to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination after completion of 120 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of baccalaureate coursework. **This bill does not reduce the rigor needed for licensure nor importantly, the requirements that protect the public.**

Additionally, effective April 1, 2023, Washington State will become the 47th jurisdiction to allow CPA candidates to sit for the exam after completing their qualifying 120 semester hours of baccalaureate coursework while finishing their 150 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of educational requirements. Efforts are also currently underway in the jurisdictions of North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas to change their requirements to 120 hours to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination.

Assuming the successful changes in the jurisdictions above, **without passage of HB 2523 Oregon would remain as only one of five of 55 jurisdictions that would require the 150 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of education before qualifying to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination.** Students as CPA candidates can easily go elsewhere outside of Oregon based on a time and place that is best for them. The risk is that as they pass the exam in another jurisdiction, they could also seek certification and not return to Oregon.

The above scenario makes Oregon less competitive. This is a concern not only for the future pipeline of Oregon CPAs **but** also for public protection. HB 2523 resolves the issues in course hours by aligning our academic requirements for certification with 46 of 55 licensing jurisdictions. To be clear, this bill will not eliminate the requirement for 150 course hours to be completed for Oregon CPA certification, or any other certification requirement. It simply allows accounting students to sit for the uniform CPA exam while they are still in school and streamlines their entrance into the workforce post-graduation.

We respectfully ask you to join the bipartisan and bicameral **support for HB 2523** to address this workforce issue here in Oregon.

Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker, Legislative Counsel, Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants
Doug Riggs, Legislative Counsel, Oregon Association of Independent Accountants

* The term jurisdiction refers to states, District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.