

**SB 797 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Chotzen

**House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection**

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**Action Date:** 04/29/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Chaichi, Chotzen, Gomberg, Neron, Osborne, Sosa, Wallan, Walters

**Exc:** 2 - Cate, Reschke

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Andrew Hendrie, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/24, 4/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure modifies Oregon laws regulating the licensing of certified public accountants and public accountants and makes additional technical and conforming amendments.

Detailed Summary:

**Section 1**

Redefines "certified public accountant," "client," "license," "principal place of business," and "state" for purposes of accountancy law in Oregon. Replaces definition of "licensee" with "Oregon licensee" and defines it as a holder of a license issued by this state. Modifies definition of "professional." Replaces definition of "substantial equivalency" with "substantially equivalent." Expands pathways to become a certified public accountant in Oregon through definition of "substantially equivalent."

**Section 2**

Specifies process and general qualifications for persons seeking admission to take the certified public accountant examination to obtain either a certified public accountant license or public accountant license.

**Sections 3, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36**

Makes conforming amendments.

**Section 4**

Makes technical amendment.

**Section 5**

Specifies that Section 6 of the measure is added to ORS 673.010 to ORS 673.465, which pertains to licensing for certified public accountants and public accountants.

**Section 6**

Specifies the Oregon Board of Accountancy (board) may issue a certified public accountant license to a person who submits an application and provides evidence of required education and experience. Requires verification of experience by specified persons. Specifies that a certified public accountant license expires every two years.

**Section 7**

Specifies requirements for a person to obtain a public accountant license. Removes requirement that an applicant for a public accountant license take an examination for the certificate of certified public accountant and receive a passing grade in those sections of the examination that the board may require by rule. Specifies that a public

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accountant may not perform audits.

### **Section 8**

Specifies that Sections 9 and 10 of the measure are added to ORS 673.010 to ORS 673.465, which pertains to licensing for certified public accountants and public accountants.

### **Section 9**

Specifies process and requirements for the board to issue a certified public accountant license to a person who is licensed in good standing as a certified public accountant in another state.

### **Section 10**

Defines "foreign country." Specifies process and requirements for the board to issue a certified public accountant license to a person who holds a certified public accountant license or chartered accountant certificate issued in a foreign country.

### **Section 11**

Specifies process to renew a license issued by the board every two years. Specifies process for board to restore a lapsed license.

### **Section 12**

Modifies requirements for a person licensed in another state to practice public accountancy in Oregon.

### **Section 13**

Adds option for a business organization of certified public accountants or of public accountants to register with the board, and for owners of the business organization who are not licensed to have an employee stock ownership plan as described by the board by rule. Makes conforming amendments and technical amendments.

### **Section 15**

Specifies disciplinary action board may take, including revoking, suspending, refusing to renew, or limiting the privileges of any license or registration issued by the board. Permits the board to deny any applicant or issue letters of censure to any person. Specifies when the board may take these disciplinary actions.

### **Section 18**

Permits the board to grant inactive status to an Oregon licensee upon application and prohibits a person with inactive status from practicing public accountancy unless permitted by board rule. Specifies who the board may not grant inactive status to.

### **Sections 23 and 28**

Makes conforming and technical amendments.

### **Section 24**

Specifies that six of the seven members of the board must be either a certified public accountant or a public accountant and actively engaged in public accountancy practice. Removes requirement that one board member must have a current permit as a certified public accountant and be employed in private industry, education, or government, or actively engaged in public accountancy practice. Removes requirement that one board member must be licensed as a public accountant and actively engaged in public accountancy practice.

### **Section 25**

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Specifies that modifications made to board membership by section 24 of the measure do not affect the term of office of any member of the board appointed prior to and serving on the effective date of the measure.

### **Section 30**

Allows the Oregon Business Development Department discretion in applying the requirement that for a local filmmaker or local media production services company to qualify for reimbursement for Oregon expenses, up to \$1 million, the local filmmaker or local media production services company must employ or contract with a certified public accountant for payroll services. Makes conforming amendments.

### **Section 37**

Repeals ORS 673.040, which specifies the requirements to obtain a certificate as a certified public accountant. Repeals ORS 673.103, which prohibits public accountants from performing audits.

### **Section 38**

Makes modifications of laws regulating the licensing of certified public accountants and public accountants and conforming and technical amendments not affect the validity of, or authorize the cancellation of, a permit, certificate, or license issued by the board before January 1, 2026, to any practitioner of public accountancy, as a result of activity that occurred before January 1, 2026.

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the measure

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment allows the Oregon Business Development Department discretion in applying the requirement that for a local filmmaker or local media production services company to qualify for reimbursement for Oregon expenses, up to \$1 million, the local filmmaker or local media production services company must employ or contract with a certified public accountant for payroll services.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Board of Accountancy (Board) consists of seven members, serving three-year terms. The Board is tasked with regulating the practice of public accountancy by persons acting as certified public accountants or public accountants. The Board also has authority to adopt rules for professional conduct to assist in controlling the quality of services offered by certified public accountants and public accountants. Rules of professional conduct include competency and technical expertise required to practice public accountancy, and responsibilities to the public and clients. The Board is also able to impose discipline upon certified public accountants or public accountants for cause, which may include acts of fraud, deceit, or incompetence.

Senate Bill 797 B modifies Oregon laws regulating the licensing of certified public accountants and public accountants.