

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-36—HB 7020

General Law Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SUMMARY: This act changes the requirements for obtaining a certified public accountant (CPA) certificate, including eliminating good character requirements and modifying the education and experience requirements. It also alters the requirements for granting a practice privilege to a person with a principal place of business outside the state, which allows the person to act as a CPA in Connecticut without obtaining a Connecticut CPA certificate.

Finally, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

CPA REQUIREMENTS

By law, the State Board of Accountancy issues CPA certificates to qualified applicants. The act makes changes to each of the required qualifications, other than the examination requirements.

Good Character

The act eliminates the board's authority to deny a CPA certificate based on good character when there is clear and convincing evidence of a substantial connection between a person's prior dishonest act or felony and a CPA's professional responsibilities. Existing law still permits the board to deny an application based on, among other reasons, a felony conviction or crime of dishonesty or fraud (after considering certain factors) (CGS § 20-281a(a)(8)).

Education

Prior law required a person to satisfy the education requirement by (1) completing at least 150 semester hours of college education including a bachelor's degree or higher from a college or university acceptable to the board and (2) having an accounting or equivalent concentration, as determined by the board in a regulation.

Beginning October 1, 2025, the act instead requires the applicant to have, from a college or university acceptable to the board, an appropriate accounting concentration or equivalent, as determined by the board in its regulations, and a (1) bachelor's degree, (2) bachelor's degree plus an additional 30 college semester hours, or (3) post-baccalaureate degree. The act limits the board's authority to adopt regulations on education requirements to implementing the act's requirements, rather than allowing the regulations to specify these requirements.

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Experience

Prior law allowed the board to adopt regulations to set the experience requirements for CPAs and the board's regulations required two years of experience. Beginning October 1, 2025, the act retains the two-year requirement for those who satisfy the education requirement with a bachelor's degree, but reduces it to one year for those who have completed 30 additional college semester hours or hold a post-baccalaureate degree as described above.

The act limits the board's authority to adopt regulations on experience requirements to implementing the act's requirements, rather than allowing the regulations to specify these requirements.

PRACTICE PRIVILEGES

The act changes how a person with a principal place of business outside the state qualifies for a practice privilege in Connecticut that allows the person to act as a CPA without obtaining a Connecticut license.

Previously, a person generally qualified for practice privileges (with certain exceptions for those licensed prior to January 1, 2012) if he or she held a CPA license from another state and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) verified that the:

1. other state's licensure requirements were substantially equivalent to those in the Uniform Accountancy Act (an act developed by NASBA and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) or
2. person's qualifications were substantially equivalent to those in the Uniform Accountancy Act.

The act eliminates these provisions and instead qualifies a person for practice privileges if he or she:

1. holds a CPA license in good standing from another state and meets the education, experience, and examination requirements applicable to Connecticut licensees or
2. passes the Uniform CPA Examination by September 30, 2025, and holds a CPA license in good standing from another state on that date.