

CHAPTER 81

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

SENATE BILL 26-076

BY SENATOR(S) Lindstedt and Frizell, Snyder, Bright, Carson, Catlin, Jodeh, Kirkmeyer, Liston, Marchman, Pelton R., Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Richardson and Stewart R., Keltie.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-108, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), and (1)(c) as follows:

12-100-108. Educational and experience requirements - rules.

(1) On and after ~~July 1, 2015, a person~~ JANUARY 1, 2027, AN INDIVIDUAL meets the educational and experience requirements necessary to be issued a certificate of certified public accountant if the applicant:

(a) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS:

(I) ~~Has~~ A baccalaureate ~~or higher~~ degree conferred by an accredited college or university with an accounting program approved by the board or ~~has a baccalaureate~~ with a nonaccounting concentration supplemented by what the board determines to be the equivalent of an accounting concentration, including related courses in other areas of business administration; ~~and~~

(II) ~~Has completed at least one hundred fifty semester hours of college education approved by the board~~ A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PLUS AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY SEMESTER HOURS CONFERRED BY AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH AN ACCOUNTING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE BOARD OR WITH A NONACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION SUPPLEMENTED BY WHAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO BE THE

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

EQUIVALENT OF AN ACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION, INCLUDING RELATED COURSES IN OTHER AREAS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION; OR

(III) A POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CONFERRED BY AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH AN ACCOUNTING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE BOARD OR WITH A NONACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION SUPPLEMENTED BY WHAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO BE THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION, INCLUDING RELATED COURSES IN OTHER AREAS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION;

(c)(I) ~~Has one year's experience that~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT OF ACCOUNTING-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

(A) IF THE APPLICANT IS APPLYING FOR A CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO THE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION, AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF ACCOUNTING-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE; OR

(B) IF THE APPLICANT IS APPLYING FOR A CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO THE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II) OR (1)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION, AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF ACCOUNTING-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE.

(II) THE ACCOUNTING-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION MUST:

~~(A)~~ (A) ~~Meets~~ MEET the requirements set by the board by rule;

~~(B)~~ (B) ~~is in~~ INCLUDE any type of service or advice ~~involving~~ REPRESENTING THE SKILLS NEEDED TO SERVE THE PUBLIC AT THE TIME OF INITIAL CERTIFICATION THAT INVOLVE the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory SKILLS, financial advisory SKILLS, tax, or consulting, ~~skills~~; which may be gained through employment in government, industry, academia, or public practice; and

~~(C)~~ (C) ~~is~~ BE verified by an actively licensed certified public accountant who meets the requirements set by the board by rule.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-109, **amend** (4); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

12-100-109. Examinations - reexaminations - rules.

(4) A candidate for a certificate of certified public accountant ~~who meets the educational requirements set by the board by rule~~ is entitled to take an examination IF THE CANDIDATE:

(a) HAS OBTAINED A BACCALAUREATE OR HIGHER DEGREE CONFERRED BY AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND COMPLETED AN ACCOUNTING PROGRAM OR A NONACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION SUPPLEMENTED BY WHAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO BE THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION, INCLUDING RELATED COURSES IN OTHER AREAS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION; OR

(b) DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A DEGREE PROGRAM AT A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY THAT CONFERS A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

AND MASTER'S OR HIGHER DEGREE UPON COMPLETION OF A COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM AND THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND ACCOUNTING CONCENTRATION.

(4.5) A CANDIDATE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT WHO IS ENTITLED TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION SHALL, REGARDLESS OF SUCH ENTITLEMENT, COMPLETE ONE OF THE THREE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 12-100-108 (1)(a) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-114, **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

12-100-114. Partnerships, professional corporations, and limited liability companies composed of certified public accountants - registration - rules - definitions.

(1) Except as provided in ~~section 12-100-117(2)~~ SECTION 12-100-117 (2)(a)(II), a partnership, professional corporation, or limited liability company engaged in this state in the practice of public accounting as certified public accountants shall register with the board as a partnership, professional corporation, or limited liability company of certified public accountants and must meet the following requirements; and, as used in this article 100, "partnership" includes a registered limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability limited partnership, foreign limited partnership, foreign limited liability partnership, and foreign limited liability limited partnership:

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-117, **amend** (2)(a)(I) as follows:

12-100-117. Exceptions - acts not prohibited - rules.

(2) (a) (I) (A) ~~Nothing in this article 100 prohibits~~ A certified public accountant WHO IS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND whose principal place of business is located in another state or jurisdiction of the United States ~~from practicing in this state on professional business, as defined by rules promulgated by the board. The practice shall be conducted in conformity with rules promulgated by the board~~ HAS ALL THE SAME PRACTICE PRIVILEGES AS CERTIFICATE HOLDERS IN THIS STATE, AND MAY OFFER OR RENDER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, WHETHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL, TELEPHONE, OR ELECTRONIC MEANS, WITHOUT THE NEED TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-100-107 IF THE INDIVIDUAL WAS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF INITIAL LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE PASSED THE UNIFORM CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINATION AND TO HAVE OBTAINED A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CONFERRED BY AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

(B) A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT WHO IS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WHO, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024, HAS PRACTICE

PRIVILEGES IN THIS STATE UNDER THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD CONTINUES TO HAVE ALL THE SAME PRACTICE PRIVILEGES OF CERTIFICATE HOLDERS IN THIS STATE WITHOUT THE NEED TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-100-107.

(C) THE CONFERRAL OF THE PRACTICE PRIVILEGES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) MUST BE CONDUCTED IN CONFORMITY WITH RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD; EXCEPT THAT THE BOARD SHALL NOT REQUIRE A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT WHO IS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHO HAS PRACTICE PRIVILEGES IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) TO PROVIDE A NOTICE, FEE, OR OTHER SUBMISSION AS A CONDITION OF EXERCISING PRACTICE PRIVILEGES IN THIS STATE.

SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. Section 12-100-108, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended in section 1 of this act, takes effect January 1, 2027, and the remainder of this act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor; except that section 12-100-108, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended in section 1 of this act, takes effect January 1, 2027, or on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.

Approved: May 4, 2026