

1 SB118
2 164538-5
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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11 Relating to certified public accountants; to amend
12 Section 34-1-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the
13 citizenship qualifications for certification, and to reduce
14 the semester and quarter hour education requirements for
15 eligibility to sit for the CPA examination.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. Section 34-1-4, Code of Alabama 1975, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "§34-1-4.

20 "(a) If each of the following qualifications is met,
21 the certificate of certified public accountant shall be
22 granted by the board to any person:

23 ~~"(1) Who is a citizen of the United States or, if~~
24 ~~not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally~~
25 ~~present in the United States with appropriate documentation~~
26 ~~from the federal government, or has duly declared his or her~~
27 ~~intent to become a citizen.~~

1 "~~(2)~~(1) Who has attained the age of 19 years.

2 "~~(3)~~(2) Who is of good moral character.

3 "~~(4)~~(3) Who meets the following educational
4 requirements:

5 "a. A person shall have earned a college degree from
6 a four-year college or university accredited by a regional
7 accreditation board such as the Southern Association of
8 Colleges and Universities, with a concentration in accounting
9 or what the board determines to be substantially the
10 equivalent of a concentration in accounting. Persons who, on
11 May 16, 1989, have previously taken the uniform written CPA
12 examination shall be considered to meet these qualifications.

13 "b. After January 1, 1995, any person who has not
14 previously sat for the uniform CPA examination shall have
15 completed a total of 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours
16 of postsecondary education, including a baccalaureate degree
17 at a college or university accredited by a regional
18 accreditation board such as the Southern Association of
19 Colleges and Universities. The total education program shall
20 include an accounting concentration as defined by the board
21 and other course work as the board may require by regulation.

22 "~~(5)~~(4)a. Who has successfully passed a uniform
23 examination, administered by the board or its designee, in
24 accounting and auditing and in any other related subjects as
25 the board deems necessary, including, but not limited to,
26 business law and taxation, to maintain the highest standard of
27 proficiency in the profession of public accounting.

1 "b. After January 1, ~~1995~~ 2016, in order to be
2 eligible for an initial sitting for the uniform CPA
3 examination, a person shall have completed a total of ~~150~~ 120
4 semester hours or ~~225~~ 180 quarter hours of education,
5 including a baccalaureate degree at a college or university
6 accredited by a regional accreditation board such as the
7 Southern Association of Colleges and Universities.

8 "(b) (1) Examinations provided for in this chapter
9 shall be given by the board as often as necessary, but not
10 less frequently than twice each year. The board shall, after
11 each examination, notify applicants of the results.

12 "(2) The board may issue certificates under the
13 signature and the official seal of the board, pursuant to this
14 chapter.

15 "(c) The board shall charge each person certified
16 under subsection (e) and each candidate an application fee for
17 the uniform CPA examination in an amount determined by the
18 board. Examination and reexamination fees shall be charged by
19 the board, or its designee, in amounts determined by the board
20 for each subject in which a candidate is examined. The
21 applicable fees shall be paid to the board, or its designee,
22 by the candidate at the time he or she applies for examination
23 or reexamination.

24 "(d) Persons who, on May 16, 1989, held certified
25 public accountant certificates issued under the laws of this
26 state shall not be required to obtain additional certificates
27 under this chapter, but shall otherwise be subject to this

1 chapter. The certificates issued shall, for all purposes, be
2 considered certificates issued under this chapter and subject
3 to this chapter.

4 "(e) The board may waive the examination under
5 subdivision (a) (5), and may issue a certificate as a certified
6 public accountant to any person paying the application fee
7 provided in subsection (c) who possesses the qualifications
8 specified in subdivisions (a) (1) through (a) (3), and what the
9 board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the
10 applicable qualifications under subdivision (a) (4), and who is
11 the holder of a certificate as a certified public accountant,
12 then in full force and effect, issued under the laws of any
13 state.

14 "(f) The board may make appropriate regulations to
15 govern the issuance of a certificate as a certified public
16 accountant to the holder of a certificate, license, or degree
17 which is then in full force and effect in any foreign country
18 constituting a recognized qualification for the practice of
19 public accounting in the country, comparable to that of a
20 certified public accountant of this state."

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on
22 January 1, 2016.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Governmental Affairs..... 03-MAR-15

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar..... 10-MAR-15

Read for the third time and passed as amended 02-APR-15

Yeas 28
Nays 0

Patrick Harris
Secretary