

## Chapter 208

(Senate Bill 287)

AN ACT concerning

### State Board of Public Accountancy – Educational Requirements for Examination and Licensure

FOR the purpose of altering the educational requirements for an applicant for a license to practice certified public accountancy to take the examination to be a certain number of semester hours or their equivalent and the possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree; maintaining the educational requirements for a license to practice certified public accountancy at a certain number of semester hours or their equivalent and the possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree; and generally relating to the educational requirements for examination and licensure as a certified public accountant.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
Section 2–303 and 2–305  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2010 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

#### Article – Business Occupations and Professions

2–303.

(a) (1) [Prior to July 1, 1999, in addition to the other qualifications for a license set forth in this subtitle,] **IN ORDER TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION**, an applicant shall **HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED 120 SEMESTER HOURS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT, AND** hold a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the requirements of this section.

(2) [On or after July 1, 1999,] **IN ORDER TO BECOME LICENSED**, in addition to the other qualifications for a license set forth in this subtitle, an applicant shall have satisfactorily completed 150 semester hours or their equivalent, including the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the requirements of this section.

(b) The applicant shall have completed for the degree a curriculum that the Board considers to constitute:

(1) a major in accounting; or

(2) a substantial equivalent to a major in accounting, of which required credits or courses may be taken at any 2- or 4-year regionally accredited institution of higher education.

(c) The degree required under this section shall be awarded by a school, college, university, or other institution that:

(1) is a member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business;

(2) is a member of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs;

(3) is accredited by or is a constituent unit of an institution accredited by:

(i) the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; or

(ii) the equivalent regional accrediting association for other regional areas; or

(4) is recognized and approved by the Board.

(d) (1) The Board may use the services of any institution that it considers appropriate to determine what constitutes a substantial equivalent to a major in accounting under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(2) If the Board uses an institution to determine curriculum equivalencies, the Board may accept as final the determination of that institution.

2-305.

(a) An applicant who [otherwise qualifies for a license] **MEETS THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD** is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) The Board shall give examinations to applicants at least twice a year, at the times and places that the Board determines.

(c) The Board shall give each qualified applicant notice of the time and place of examination.

(d) (1) The Board shall give the examination prepared by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board.

(2) The Board may use the services of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to prepare or grade an examination. If the Board uses the services of the Institute, the Board may accept as final the grades that the Institute determines.

(3) The Board may use the services of any person whom the Board considers appropriate to proctor an examination.

(e) The Board shall adopt regulations that establish the passing score for an examination.

(f) (1) The Board shall mail to each applicant notice of the applicant's examination score.

(2) Any applicant who requests an appointment within 60 days after the date on which the notice is mailed may review the applicant's answers to the examination.

(g) (1) If the Board uses the services of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to grade an examination, the Board may send the examination answers to the Institute by electronic transmission, by mail, or by a private delivery service.

(2) If the Board sends out examination answers for grading in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board is not liable for the loss or destruction of any of the examination answers while the answers are out of the possession of the Board.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

**Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.**