

HB887 - Accountants - Reciprocal Licenses - Qualifications
House Economic Matters Committee
February 12, 2025
Legislative Position: FAVORABLE

Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tamara Bensky, and I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Maryland. I wish to express my support for House Bill 887. While I am not speaking on behalf of the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy, I recently completed my term as an appointed Board member and have firsthand knowledge of the Board's discussions and perspectives on this issue. In addition, I am a partner in an accounting firm with 20 offices across the country and CPA mobility is a critical part of our business.

Maryland currently benefits from CPA mobility provisions that allow qualified CPAs licensed from other states to **temporarily** practice within our jurisdiction without additional licensing requirements. However, as other states introduce new pathways to CPA licensure, the language in our existing law could pose challenges to continue this practice mobility.

House Bill 887 addresses these concerns by ensuring that actively licensed CPAs seeking to temporarily practice in Maryland via practice privilege may continue to do so.

Importantly, House Bill 887 preserves the Maryland Board of Accountancy's authority to enforce compliance with state laws and professional standards. Individuals practicing under the mobility provisions will remain subject to the Board's jurisdiction, ensuring that public protection and professional accountability are upheld.

During my tenure on the Maryland Board of Accountancy, we recognized the importance of practice privilege, and the Board has expressed its support for the concept of maintaining CPA license mobility.

As someone who has served as a regulator for the CPA profession and someone who employs CPAs in many states across the country, I can attest to the importance of maintaining practice privilege for CPAs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on House Bill 887.

Thank you.

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