

SENATE BILL 51

C3

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1466
CF HB 887

By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: October 29, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 2, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Accountants – ~~Reciprocal Licenses~~ Licensed Out-of-State Practice Privileges –**
3 **Qualifications**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for an individual licensed as a certified public
5 accountant in another state to practice certified public accountancy in the State; and
6 generally relating to reciprocal licensure requirements for the practice of certified
7 public accountancy.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
10 Section 2–301
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
15 Section 2–321
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 2–301.

2 Except as provided in § 2–321 of this subtitle, an individual shall be licensed by the
3 Board before the individual may practice certified public accountancy in the State.

4 2–321.

5 (a) In this section, “practice certified public accountancy” includes the practice of
6 public accountancy.

7 (b) (1) An individual whose principal place of business is outside the State is
8 exempt from the licensing requirement under § 2–301 of this subtitle and shall be
9 considered to have qualifications that are substantially equivalent to a licensee if **THE**
10 **INDIVIDUAL:**

11 (i) **[the individual]** holds a valid license as a certified public
12 accountant from another state; and

13 (ii) **[the requirements of that state have been verified by NASBA as**
14 **substantially equivalent with the licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act]**
15 **WAS REQUIRED TO PASS THE UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE**
16 **LICENSE IN THE OTHER STATE.**

17 (2) An individual who qualifies for an exemption under paragraph (1) of
18 this subsection may exercise all of the privileges of a licensed certified public accountant.

19 (c) **[(1) An individual who is licensed by a state that the NASBA National**
20 **Qualification Appraisal Service has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the**
21 **CPA licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act may exercise all of the**
22 **privileges of a licensed certified public accountant if the individual:**

23 (i) retains a principal place of business outside of the State;

24 (ii) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant; and

25 (iii) has qualifications that the NASBA National Qualification
26 Appraisal Service has determined to be substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure
27 requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act.

28 (2) An individual who has passed the Uniform CPA Examination and holds
29 a valid license issued by another state prior to January 1, 2012, may be exempt from the
30 education requirements in the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this subsection.

1 (3)] Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who qualifies
2 for a practice privilege under this section may practice certified public accountancy in the
3 State:

4 [(i)] (1) by any means, including mail, telephone, or electronic
5 communication; and

6 [(ii)] (2) without any notice, fee, or other submission to the Board.

7 (d) As a condition of the practice privilege, an individual who is licensed by
8 another state and qualifies for a practice privilege under this subtitle and any firm that
9 employs the individual to practice in the State shall both consent to:

10 (1) the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary authority
11 of the Board;

12 (2) complying with State public accountancy laws and regulations adopted
13 by the Board;

14 (3) the appointment of the State Board of Public Accountancy that issued
15 the individual's license to practice certified public accountancy as the agent upon which
16 process may be served in any action or proceeding by the Board against the individual; and

17 (4) ceasing to offer or provide services in the State that are subject to this
18 title if the license issued by the state in which the individual's principal place of business
19 is located is no longer valid.

20 (e) An individual authorized to practice certified public accountancy under this
21 section and under the practice privilege may represent to the public, by use of a title,
22 including "licensed certified public accountant", "certified public accountant", "public
23 accountant", or "auditor", by use of the abbreviation "CPA", by description of services,
24 methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the individual is authorized to practice certified
25 public accountancy in the State.

26 (f) A sole practitioner who is practicing in the State under the practice privilege
27 may only perform attest services as defined in § 2-101(c)(1), (4), or (5) of this title, through
28 a firm that holds a permit issued under § 2-401 of this title.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2025.