

HOUSE BILL 643

C3

6lr1522
CF SB 34

By: **Delegates Valderrama, Qi, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certified Public Accountants – Licensure – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain educational and experiential qualifications for a license
4 to practice certified public accountancy; and generally relating to licensure
5 qualifications for certified public accountants.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
8 Section 2–302 and 2–303
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

14 2–302.

15 (a) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the
16 requirements of this section.

17 (b) The applicant shall be of good character and reputation.

18 (c) The applicant shall be at least 18 years old.

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 (d) The applicant shall meet the educational requirements under § 2-303 of this
2 subtitle.

3 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant shall pass an
4 examination given by the Board under this subtitle.

5 (f) The applicant for an initial license shall complete practical work experience
6 that is approved by the Board and that:

7 (1) is obtained over a period of:

8 (i) not more than [3] 6 years; and

9 (ii) [1. not less than 6 months if the applicant applies before
10 October 1, 2000; or

11 2.] not less than 1 year [if the applicant applies on or after
12 October 1, 2000];

13 (2) includes providing any type of service or advice involving the use of
14 accounting, attest, management advisory, financial advisory, tax, or consulting skills;

15 (3) is performed under the direction of:

16 (i) a licensed certified public accountant; or

17 (ii) an appropriately qualified professional as determined by the
18 Board;

19 (4) is obtained through employment in government, industry, academia, or
20 public practice; and

21 (5) amounts to:

22 (i) [1,000 hours if the applicant applies before October 1, 2000; or

23 (ii)] 2,000 hours if the applicant [applies on or after October 1, 2000.]

24 **SEEKS TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENSE UNDER § 2-303(A)(2)(I) OR (II) OF THIS**
25 **SUBTITLE; OR**

26 **(II) 4,000 HOURS IF THE APPLICANT SEEKS TO QUALIFY FOR A**
27 **LICENSE UNDER § 2-303(A)(2)(III) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

28 2-303.

1 (a) (1) In order to take the examination, an applicant shall [have satisfactorily
2 completed 120 semester hours or their equivalent, and] hold a baccalaureate or higher
3 degree that meets the requirements of this section.

4 (2) In order to become licensed, in addition to the other qualifications for a
5 license set forth in this subtitle, an applicant shall have satisfactorily completed [150
6 semester hours or their equivalent, including the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher
7 degree that meets the requirements of this section]:

8 (I) 1. A MASTER'S DEGREE WITH A CONCENTRATION IN
9 ACCOUNTING OR AN EQUIVALENT OF A CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING; AND

10 2. NOT LESS THAN 1 YEAR OF PRACTICAL WORK
11 EXPERIENCE AS DESCRIBED IN § 2-302(F)(5)(I) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

12 (II) 1. A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AND AN ADDITIONAL 30
13 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING OR AN
14 EQUIVALENT OF A CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING; AND

15 2. NOT LESS THAN 1 YEAR OF PRACTICAL WORK
16 EXPERIENCE AS DESCRIBED IN § 2-302(F)(5)(I) OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

17 (III) 1. A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE WITH A CONCENTRATION
18 IN ACCOUNTING OR AN EQUIVALENT OF A CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING; AND

19 2. NOT LESS THAN 2 YEARS OF PRACTICAL WORK
20 EXPERIENCE AS DESCRIBED IN § 2-302(F)(5)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (b) The applicant shall have completed for the BACCALAUREATE OR MASTER'S
22 degree REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, a curriculum that the
23 Board considers to constitute:

24 (1) a major in accounting; or

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

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

30 (1) is a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of
31 Business;

1 (2) is a member of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and
2 Programs;

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

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

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

7 (4) is recognized and approved by the Board.

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.