

HOUSE BILL 657

C3

6lr3075

By: **Delegates Stonko, Chang, and Hinebaugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



3 (1) is obtained over a period of:

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

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

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

11 (3) is performed under the direction of:

12 (i) a licensed certified public accountant; or

13 (ii) an appropriately qualified professional as determined by the
14 Board;

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

17 (5) amounts to:

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

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

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

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

24 2-303.

1 semester hours or their equivalent, including the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher
2 degree that meets the requirements of this section]:

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

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

7 (II) 1. A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AND AN ADDITIONAL 30
8 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING OR AN
9 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; OR

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

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

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

19 (1) a major in accounting; or

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

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

25 (1) is a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of
26 Business;

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

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

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

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

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