



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

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Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 261 - State Board of Public Accountancy - Sunset Extension and Report

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals, Inc. (MSATP) represents over 2,000 tax and accounting professionals who serve more than 700,000 Maryland residents. We strongly support Senate Bill 261, which would extend the termination date of the State Board of Public Accountancy until July 1, 2030.

The State Board of Public Accountancy serves as the cornerstone of professional accounting oversight in Maryland. Its role in licensing, continuing education, and maintaining professional standards is fundamental to ensuring the quality and integrity of accounting services throughout our state. The five-year extension proposed in this legislation is vital for preserving regulatory consistency and protecting both practitioners and consumers.

Our organization's members engage with the Board throughout their professional careers, from initial licensing through ongoing compliance and firm registration. The Board's continued operation ensures seamless delivery of these essential services while maintaining the high standards that Maryland's businesses and residents rely upon. This extension would prevent any disruption in these critical functions and provide stability for both accounting professionals and their clients.

We note that Section 2 of the bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor to submit a report. We recommend amending this section to specify that the State Board of Public Accountancy should submit this report, as they possess the most direct knowledge of and experience with the matters to be evaluated. The proposed July 1, 2028 reporting deadline to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee will ensure proper oversight while allowing sufficient time for comprehensive assessment of the Board's operations and effectiveness.

The accounting profession continues to evolve rapidly with technological advancement and changing regulatory requirements. The Board plays an essential role in ensuring that Maryland's accounting professionals stay current with these changes while maintaining the highest standards of practice. This extension will enable the Board to continue its vital work in adapting professional standards and oversight to meet these emerging challenges.

For these reasons, MSATP strongly encourages a favorable report on Senate Bill 261. The extension of the Board's authority is essential for maintaining the professional standards and consumer protections that are vital to Maryland's business community and residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Giavante' Hawkins

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Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals