

Senate Bill 261 Final Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Giavante Hawkins

Position: FAV



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

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January 21, 2025

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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

Giavante' Hawkins
Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals



SB0261_MDL_Letter of Support - Maryland Board of P

Uploaded by: John Dove

Position: FAV

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SB0261

TO: Energy, Education and Environment
DATE: 1/22/25
BILL: SB0261 – Maryland Board of Public Accountancy – Sunset Extension

MD LABOR POSITION: Support

This bill proposes to extend the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy (MBPA), which is scheduled to terminate and be of no effect after July 1, 2025. This bill would continue the Board through July 1, 2030. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) to submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) with information about the Board activities prior to its next sunset extension request to the legislature.

The MBPA is one of the 26 licensing boards within the division of Occupational & Professional Licensing under MD Labor. The MBPA is the third oldest state CPA Board in the country. Currently, MBPA oversees a total of 19,206 CPA licensees and firms in Maryland. Key functions of the MBPA include industry licensing and management of complaints against licensees. License applications are processed by Board staff as soon as all of the requirements have been met by candidates, except in certain cases where approval/denial is required by Board members. In these cases, the applications are reviewed at the next Board meeting. The Board, typically, receives or opens 80-100 complaints per year. On average, complaints are closed within 30-60 days.

It is necessary to extend the MBPA for the safety and welfare of all Maryland citizens by providing for the licensure and oversight of a robust public accounting marketplace and offering consumers adequate protections against abuse and malpractice.

MD Labor respectfully requests a favorable report on SB0261 by the Committee.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov

www.labor.maryland.gov

SB261 - MACPA Written Testimony _ FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: MB Halpern

Position: FAV



**SB 261 - State Board of Public Accountancy - Sunset Extension and Report
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

January 23, 2025

Legislative Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Committee,

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) represents nearly 9,000 members, including licensed CPAs in public practice, private industry, government, non-profit organizations, and education. Each of our members interacts with the State Board of Public Accountancy in some capacity, making the Board's effective operation essential to our profession and the public it serves.

The responsibilities of the Board of Accountancy have grown in recent years, and its staff has done an excellent job managing increased workloads while maintaining the operations required of a licensing agency. Their work is critical to safeguarding the integrity of the accounting profession and protecting the public interest.

MACPA has a longstanding partnership with the State Board of Public Accountancy, and we remain committed to supporting its vital work. We respectfully request a **favorable report** on SB 261 to ensure the Board's continued ability to serve the public and the accounting profession effectively.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information about this position, please contact marybeth@macpa.org or Nick Manis nmanis@maniscanning.com.