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Position: FAV

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
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Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable

Senate Bill 148: State Board of Public Accountancy – Emeritus Status

January 28, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kegan, and esteemed of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 148, titled “State Board of Public Accountancy – Emeritus Status.” This legislation proposes the establishment of an emeritus status for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in Maryland, providing a formal recognition for retired professionals who have dedicated their careers to the accounting profession. The introduction of an emeritus status serves as a meaningful way to honor the lifetime achievements of CPAs who have retired from active practice. It allows them to retain a title that reflects their professional identity without the obligations associated with active licensure, such as continuing education requirements.

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) has emphasized the importance of this legislation, noting that it supports the granting of emeritus status for professional licensees under certain conditions. Implementing this designation would also align Maryland with other states that have adopted similar provisions, thereby standardizing professional recognition across jurisdictions.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 148.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur Ellis in blue ink.
Arthur Ellis

SB0148_MD State Board of Public Accountancy_FWA.doc

Uploaded by: John Dove

Position: FWA

CPA BOARD LETTER OF SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS ON SB0148.

TO: Education, Energy and Environment
FROM: Jan Williams, CPA Board Chair
DATE: 1/23/25
BILL: SB0148-State Board of Public Accountancy - Emeritus Status

The Maryland State Board of Public Accountancy (Board) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 148. At its most recent meeting on January 7th, the Board had the opportunity to review and discuss the pre-filed legislation. The Board supports the concept of a CPA ‘Emeritus Status’ proposed in SB 148. The Board offers the following suggestions to the legislation which would: 1) take into consideration interstate ‘mobility’ accounting practices; 2) reduce inconsistencies between proposed legislation SB 148 and current Board rules relating to ‘inactive license’ status; and 3) reduce confusion by the public and other consumers regarding CPA Emeritus Status.

Under the concept of ‘mobility’ a CPA actively licensed in one state can practice on a temporary basis in another state that is not their principal place of business. As a result, a CPA may be investigated by more than his/her home licensing state. The Board suggests that SB 148 be modified as a result to provide in Sec 2-313.1(B)(2) that a candidate for Emeritus Status “is not under investigation by ANY STATE board for a violation of this title.”

Similarly, in Sec 2-313.1(B)(4)(I) we offer that an option of practicing in Maryland for at least 20 years does not reflect the mobility of CPAs and is too restrictive, especially for those who may have practiced in other states during their career and those serving in the military. We suggest that a minimum of 6 (six) years practice in the state of Maryland is combined with the criteria in Sec 2-313.1(B)(4)(2)(II) that an individual have at least 40 years of experience, so that the sentence would read, “Has at least 40 years of experience as a certified public accountant, WITH AT LEAST 6 YEARS AS AN ACTIVE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT IN THE STATE.” Finally, relating again to mobility, under 2-601 (1)(2)(I) the term “in the state” should be removed so that practice in any state would be prohibited.



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The Board does not believe that the other licensees should bear the cost of an individual obtaining Emeritus Status and recommends that there be application and renewal fees for obtaining and renewing Emeritus Status, similar to obtaining an Inactive License Status, with its two-year renewal. As with an individual with an Inactive License Status, the Board recommends under Sections 2-314 (2) and (3) that an individual with Emeritus Status who seeks to reactivate their CPA license should be required to comply with the Board's continuing professional education requirements and also pay the Board a reinstatement fee.

We understand the sponsor shares the Board's concern that there is no public confusion that a CPA who has sought Emeritus Status cannot practice public accountancy. The Board believes this could be achieved by providing in the legislation that a CPA with Emeritus Status cannot be compensated for accountancy related work and must reaffirm this status to the Board every two years, as noted in a two-year renewal recommended above. This could be done by noting, "A licensee on Emeritus Status Under Section 2-313.1 of this title may not BE COMPENSATED FOR:"

Finally, under Section 2-313.1(5)(C) the Board must review an Emeritus Status application within 60 days of receipt. While the Board will seek to do so, we believe it should not be bound to a 60-day requirement. Our suggestion is to include in (C) "The Board shall ENDEAVOR TO review an application....."

Again, the Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 148 and would be available to respond to any questions or comments from you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Jan L. Williams, Ph.D, CPA

CPA Board Chair

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

SB 148 - MACPA Written Testimony _ FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: MB Halpern

Position: FWA



SB148 - State Board of Public Accountancy - Emeritus Status
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
January 30, 2025
Legislative Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Committee:

Founded in 1901, the Maryland Association of CPAs is a state-wide organization dedicated to advancing the CPA profession and advocating for the more than 14,000 licensed CPAs in Maryland. Our members serve thousands of individual and business clients throughout the state.

Senate Bill 148 authorizes the Maryland State Board of Public Accountancy to establish an emeritus status for CPAs, allowing individuals who meet specific criteria to transition out of active practice while retaining a recognized professional status. This bill acknowledges the long-standing contributions of CPAs to the profession and provides a pathway for retired CPAs to remain engaged with the professional community in a meaningful way.

MACPA supports Senate Bill 148, with the amendments proposed by the Maryland State Board of Public Accountancy. As we understand it, these amendments will assist in the effective administration and implementation of the proposed emeritus status for CPAs.

SB148 upholds the integrity of the CPA profession while recognizing the valuable contributions of retired CPAs. We believe that SB148, with the Board of Public Accountancy's proposed amendments, will serve to benefit both the profession and the public by offering a structured and responsible means for CPAs to transition into emeritus status.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable with amendments** report for **SB148**. Thank you for your consideration of our position

For more information about this position, please contact Mary Beth Halpern marybeth@macpa.org or Nick Manis nmanis@maniscanning.com.