

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public accountancy; amending s.
 3 473.308, F.S.; revising and updating education and
 4 work experience requirements for applicants for
 5 licensure as a certified public accountant; revising
 6 provisions governing licensure by endorsement;
 7 amending s. 473.313, F.S.; revising requirements for
 8 reactivation of an inactive license as a certified
 9 public accountant; requiring the Department of
 10 Business and Professional Regulation to contract for a
 11 feasibility study to assess the privatization of the
 12 Division of Certified Public Accounting; providing a
 13 deadline for completion of the study; providing an
 14 effective date.

15
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and paragraph
 19 (b) of subsection (7) of section 473.308, Florida Statutes, are
 20 amended to read:

21 473.308 Licensure.—
 22 (4) (a) An applicant for licensure after December 31, 2008,
 23 must show that he or she has had 1 year of work experience. This
 24 experience shall include providing any type of service or advice
 25 involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management
 26 advisory, financial advisory, tax, or consulting skills, all of
 27 which must be verified by a certified public accountant who is
 28 licensed by a state or territory of the United States ~~and who~~

29 ~~has supervised the applicant.~~ This experience is acceptable if
 30 it was gained through employment in government, industry,
 31 academia, or public practice; constituted a substantial part of
 32 the applicant's duties; and was verified by ~~under the~~
 33 ~~supervision of~~ a certified public accountant licensed by a state
 34 or territory of the United States. The board shall adopt rules
 35 specifying standards and providing for the review and approval
 36 of the work experience required by this section.

37 (7) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by
 38 endorsement an applicant who:

39 (b)1.a. Holds a valid license to practice public
 40 accounting issued by another state or territory of the United
 41 States, if the criteria for issuance of such license were
 42 substantially equivalent to the licensure criteria that existed
 43 in this state at the time the license was issued; ~~or~~

44 b. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting
 45 issued by another state or territory of the United States but
 46 the criteria for issuance of such license did not meet the
 47 requirements of sub-subparagraph a.; has met the requirements of
 48 this section for education, work experience, and good moral
 49 character; and has passed a national, regional, state, or
 50 territorial licensing examination that is substantially
 51 equivalent to the examination required by s. 473.306; or ~~and~~

52 c. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting
 53 issued by another state or territory of the United States; has
 54 passed a national, regional, state, or territorial licensing
 55 examination that is substantially equivalent to the examination
 56 required by s. 473.306 at least 10 years before the date of

57 application; and has met the requirements of this section for
58 good moral character; and

59 2. Has completed continuing education courses that are
60 equivalent to the continuing education requirements for a
61 Florida certified public accountant licensed in this state
62 during the 2 years immediately preceding her or his application
63 for licensure by endorsement.

64 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 473.313,
65 Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) and (5)
66 respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and
67 subsection (2) of that section is amended to read:

68 473.313 Inactive status.—

69 (2) A license that has become inactive under subsection
70 (1) or for failure to complete the requirements in s. 473.312
71 may be reactivated under s. 473.311 upon application to the
72 department. The board may prescribe by rule continuing education
73 requirements as a condition of reactivating a license. The
74 minimum continuing education requirements for reactivating a
75 license shall be those prescribed by board rule and those of the
76 most recent biennium plus one-half of the requirements in s.
77 473.312. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
78 the continuing education requirements are 120 hours, including
79 at least 30 hours in accounting-related and auditing-related
80 subjects, not more than 30 hours in behavioral subjects, and a
81 minimum of 8 hours in ethics subjects approved by the board, for
82 the reactivation of a license that is inactive or delinquent on
83 June 30, 2012 ~~2009~~, if the Florida certified public accountant
84 notifies the Board of Accountancy by December 31, 2012 ~~2009~~, of

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2012

85 an intention to reactivate such a license and completes such
86 reactivation by June 30, 2014 ~~2011~~.

87 (3) A license that has become delinquent for failure to
88 report completion of the requirements in s. 473.312 may be
89 reactivated under s. 473.311 upon application to the department.
90 Reactivation requires the payment of an application fee as
91 determined by the board and certification by the Florida
92 certified public accountant that the applicant satisfactorily
93 completed the continuing education requirements set forth under
94 s. 473.311. If the license is delinquent on December 31 because
95 of failure to report completed continuing education
96 requirements, the applicant must submit a complete application
97 to the board by March 15 immediately after the delinquent period.

98 Section 3. Upon approval of the Board of Accountancy, the
99 Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall
100 contract for a feasibility study in accordance with s.
101 455.32(4), Florida Statutes, to assess the privatization of the
102 Division of Certified Public Accounting. This study must be
103 completed no later than November 30, 2012.

104 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.