

# HOUSE BILL 1137

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By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2010

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2010

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Public Accountancy – Educational Requirements for**  
3 **Examination and Licensure**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the educational requirements for an applicant for a  
5 license to practice certified public accountancy to take the examination to be a  
6 certain number of semester hours or their equivalent and the possession of a  
7 baccalaureate or higher degree; maintaining the educational requirements for a  
8 license to practice certified public accountancy at a certain number of semester  
9 hours or their equivalent and the possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree;  
10 and generally relating to the educational requirements for examination and  
11 licensure as a certified public accountant.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
14 Section 2–303 and 2–305  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

20 2–303.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (a)   (1)   [Prior to July 1, 1999, in addition to the other qualifications for a  
2 license set forth in this subtitle,] **IN ORDER TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION**, an  
3 applicant shall **HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED 120 SEMESTER HOURS OR**  
4 **THEIR EQUIVALENT, AND** hold a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the  
5 requirements of this section.

6           (2)   [On or after July 1, 1999,] **IN ORDER TO BECOME LICENSED**, in  
7 addition to the other qualifications for a license set forth in this subtitle, an applicant  
8 shall have satisfactorily completed 150 semester hours or their equivalent, including  
9 the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree that meets the requirements of this  
10 section.

11          (b)   The applicant shall have completed for the degree a curriculum that the  
12 Board considers to constitute:

13           (1)   a major in accounting; or

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

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

19           (1)   is a member of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of  
20 Business;

21           (2)   is a member of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and  
22 Programs;

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

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

26           (ii)  the equivalent regional accrediting association for other  
27 regional areas; or

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

29          (d)   (1)   The Board may use the services of any institution that it considers  
30 appropriate to determine what constitutes a substantial equivalent to a major in  
31 accounting under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

32           (2)   If the Board uses an institution to determine curriculum  
33 equivalencies, the Board may accept as final the determination of that institution.

1 2-305.

2 (a) An applicant who [otherwise qualifies for a license] **MEETS THE**  
3 **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD** is entitled to be  
4 examined as provided in this section.

5 (b) The Board shall give examinations to applicants at least twice a year, at  
6 the times and places that the Board determines.

7 (c) The Board shall give each qualified applicant notice of the time and place  
8 of examination.

9 (d) (1) The Board shall give the examination prepared by the American  
10 Institute of Certified Public Accountants or an equivalent examination as determined  
11 by the Board.

12 (2) The Board may use the services of the American Institute of  
13 Certified Public Accountants to prepare or grade an examination. If the Board uses the  
14 services of the Institute, the Board may accept as final the grades that the Institute  
15 determines.

16 (3) The Board may use the services of any person whom the Board  
17 considers appropriate to proctor an examination.

18 (e) The Board shall adopt regulations that establish the passing score for an  
19 examination.

20 (f) (1) The Board shall mail to each applicant notice of the applicant's  
21 examination score.

22 (2) Any applicant who requests an appointment within 60 days after  
23 the date on which the notice is mailed may review the applicant's answers to the  
24 examination.

25 (g) (1) If the Board uses the services of the American Institute of Certified  
26 Public Accountants to grade an examination, the Board may send the examination  
27 answers to the Institute by electronic transmission, by mail, or by a private delivery  
28 service.

29 (2) If the Board sends out examination answers for grading in  
30 accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board is not liable for the loss or  
31 destruction of any of the examination answers while the answers are out of the  
32 possession of the Board.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2010.