

HOUSE BILL 887

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5lr2826
CF SB 51

By: **Delegates Valderrama, Arentz, Fraser–Hidalgo, Howard, A. Johnson, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Accountants – Reciprocal Licenses – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for an individual licensed as a certified public
4 accountant in another state to practice certified public accountancy in the State; and
5 generally relating to reciprocal licensure requirements for the practice of certified
6 public accountancy.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
9 Section 2–301
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
14 Section 2–321
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

20 2–301.

21 Except as provided in § 2–321 of this subtitle, an individual shall be licensed by the
22 Board before the individual may practice certified public accountancy in the State.

23 2–321.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) In this section, “practice certified public accountancy” includes the practice of public accountancy.

(b) (1) An individual whose principal place of business is outside the State is exempt from the licensing requirement under § 2–301 of this subtitle and shall be considered to have qualifications that are substantially equivalent to a licensee if **THE INDIVIDUAL:**

(i) [the individual] holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from another state; and

(ii) [the requirements of that state have been verified by NASBA as substantially equivalent with the licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act] **WAS REQUIRED TO PASS THE UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE LICENSE IN THE OTHER STATE.**

(2) An individual who qualifies for an exemption under paragraph (1) of this subsection may exercise all of the privileges of a licensed certified public accountant.

(c) [(1) An individual who is licensed by a state that the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the CPA licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act may exercise all of the privileges of a licensed certified public accountant if the individual:

(i) retains a principal place of business outside of the State;

(ii) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant; and

(iii) has qualifications that the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service has determined to be substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act.

(2) An individual who has passed the Uniform CPA Examination and holds a valid license issued by another state prior to January 1, 2012, may be exempt from the education requirements in the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this subsection.

(3)] Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who qualifies for a practice privilege under this section may practice certified public accountancy in the State:

[(i)] (1) by any means, including mail, telephone, or electronic communication; and

[(ii)] (2) without any notice, fee, or other submission to the Board.

1 (d) As a condition of the practice privilege, an individual who is licensed by
2 another state and qualifies for a practice privilege under this subtitle and any firm that
3 employs the individual to practice in the State shall both consent to:

4 (1) the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary authority
5 of the Board;

6 (2) complying with State public accountancy laws and regulations adopted
7 by the Board;

8 (3) the appointment of the State Board of Public Accountancy that issued
9 the individual's license to practice certified public accountancy as the agent upon which
10 process may be served in any action or proceeding by the Board against the individual; and

11 (4) ceasing to offer or provide services in the State that are subject to this
12 title if the license issued by the state in which the individual's principal place of business
13 is located is no longer valid.

14 (e) An individual authorized to practice certified public accountancy under this
15 section and under the practice privilege may represent to the public, by use of a title,
16 including "licensed certified public accountant", "certified public accountant", "public
17 accountant", or "auditor", by use of the abbreviation "CPA", by description of services,
18 methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the individual is authorized to practice certified
19 public accountancy in the State.

20 (f) A sole practitioner who is practicing in the State under the practice privilege
21 may only perform attest services as defined in § 2-101(c)(1), (4), or (5) of this title, through
22 a firm that holds a permit issued under § 2-401 of this title.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2025.