An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 171

By: Dugger of the Senate

and

Kendrix of the House

An Act relating to accounting; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.8, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.8), which relates to qualifications for application; decreasing required semester hours for certification; removing requirement for elective hours; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.9, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.9), which relates to grant of certificate or license; allowing the issuance of a certificate to an applicant under certain educational requirements; specifying educational requirements; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Accountancy qualifications

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.8, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.8), is amended to read as follows:

Section 15.8. A. A qualification applicant to qualify as a candidate for examination shall file an application for qualification in a format approved by the Oklahoma Accountancy Board. The fee for the qualification application shall be determined by the Board and shall not exceed Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00). Every qualification applicant to qualify as a candidate

for the certificate of certified public accountant shall submit to a national criminal history record search, must be a resident of this state immediately prior to making application and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall meet the education and experience requirements provided in this section. The costs associated with the national criminal history records search shall be paid by the applicant.

B. On or after ~~July 1, 2003~~ the effective date of this act, every qualification applicant to qualify as a candidate for examination for the certificate of certified public accountant shall have at least ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree, or the equivalent thereof, conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board from an accredited four-year college or university in this state or any other accredited four-year college or university recognized by the Board. ~~A minimum of seventy-six (76) semester hours must be earned at the upper-division level of college or above or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Board; this education requirement shall have been completed prior to submitting an application to the Board; the~~ The total educational program of the applicant for examination shall include an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined acceptable by the Board which shall include not less than ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, in accounting courses above principles of accounting or introductory accounting, with at least one course in auditing or assurance; the remaining accounting courses shall be selected from financial accounting, accounting theory, cost/managerial accounting, federal income tax, governmental, not-for-profit accounting, accounting information systems, accounting history and other accounting electives; at least nine (9) semester hours shall be from any or all of the subjects of economics, statistics, business law, finance, business management, marketing, business communication, risk management, insurance, management information systems, or computer science at the upper-division level of college or above or the equivalent of such subjects as determined by the Board; all the remaining semester hours, if any, shall be elective ~~but shall be at the upper-division level of college or above~~.

C. The costs associated with the national criminal history record check shall be paid by the applicant.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 15.9, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 2022 (59 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 15.9), is amended to read as follows:

Section 15.9. A. Upon payment of appropriate fees, the Oklahoma Accountancy Board shall grant a certificate to any individual of good character who meets the applicable education, experience and testing requirements provided for in this section and in Sections 15.8 and 15.10 of this title. For purposes of this subsection, good character means an individual who does not have a history of dishonest acts as demonstrated by documented evidence and has not been convicted, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a felony charge. The Board may refuse to grant a certificate to an applicant for failure to satisfy the requirement of good character. The Board shall provide to the denied applicant written notification specifying grounds for denial of a certificate including failure to meet the good character criterion. Appeal of the action of the Board may be made in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

B. The Board shall issue certificates as certified public accountants to those applicants who have met the qualifications required by the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act and the applicable rules of the Board, and have passed an examination in accounting, auditing and related subjects as the Board determines appropriate with such grades that satisfy the Board that each applicant is competent to practice as a certified public accountant.

C. The Board may make use of all or any part of the Uniform Certified Public ~~Accountant's~~ Accountant Examination and any organization that assists in providing the examination.

D. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate pursuant to this section shall show that the applicant has at least one hundred fifty (150) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree, or the equivalent thereof, conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board from an accredited four-year college or university in this state or any other accredited four-year college or university

recognized by the Board. Of the one hundred fifty (150) semester hours, not less than thirty (30) semester hours, or the equivalent thereof, shall be in accounting courses above principles of accounting or introductory accounting. These education requirements shall have been completed prior to submitting an application to the Board and within the time frame outlined in this section. A qualified applicant may take the certified public accountant examination as allowed in Section 15.8 of this title but shall not be issued a certificate until the education requirements pursuant to this section and Section 15.8 of this title have been met.

E. An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate under this section shall show that the applicant has had one (1) year of experience. Experience shall be defined by the Board by rule and shall include providing a type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, and be satisfied through work experience in government, industry, academia or public practice, all of which shall be verified by a certificate or license holder or an individual approved by the Board. Upon completion of the requirements of Section 15.8 of this title, a qualified applicant for the examination may take the certified public accountant or public accountant examination prior to earning the experience required in this subsection, but shall not be issued a certificate until the experience requirement has been met.

~~E.~~ F. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public accountant shall provide evidence of successful completion of an ethics examination prescribed by the Board.

~~F.~~ G. Every applicant for the certificate of certified public accountant shall submit to a national criminal history record check. The costs associated with the national criminal history record check shall be paid by the applicant.

~~G.~~ H. An individual applying for a certificate as a certified public accountant must make application for the certificate within five (5) years of the date the Board notifies the candidate that the candidate has successfully passed all sections of the C.P.A. Examination. If the candidate fails to make application for the certificate within five (5) years, the candidate must provide documentation showing he or she has completed at least one hundred

twenty (120) hours of qualifying continuing public accountancy education completed within the three-year period immediately preceding the date the individual applies for certification. The Board shall establish rules whereby time limits set for application pursuant to this provision may, upon written application to the Board, be waived or reduced if the candidate is called to active military service or becomes incapacitated as a result of illness or injury or for such other good causes as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

Passed the Senate the 13th day of March, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of April, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 18th

day of April, 20 23, at 10:51 o'clock a. M.

By: Summer Cuny

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 19th

day of April, 20 23, at 4:06 o'clock p. M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 19th

day of April, 20 23, at 4:44 o'clock P. M.

By: Brian Bingman