RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 653 (HB 548) **2026 Regular Session** **Beaullieu**

Prior and existing law provides for the regulation of certified public accountants (CPA) and the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La.

Prior law defined "substantial equivalency" or "substantially equivalent".

New law repeals those definitions.

Existing law provides qualifications for members of the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La. (board).

New law adds that board members shall be selected from diverse practice and professional areas, including but not limited to tax, audit, and education.

Prior law granted the board powers, including power to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory authorities, which grant substantially equivalent foreign designations under existing law (R.S. 37:76(G)), in instances which have or may result in criminal conviction, loss of license or suspension, admonishment or censure.

New law changes from substantially equivalent to comparable.

Existing law provides that the board may adopt rules governing administration and enforcement of the conduct of holders of a certificate, license, or permit. Prior law included rules governing substantial equivalency.

New law amends prior law, changing substantial equivalency to mobility practice privileges.

Prior law provided educational requirements for an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate.

New law requires that an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate show that he has completed one of the following educational pathways:

(1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

(2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

(3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

New law requires that an applicant complete one of the educational pathways in new law by December 31st of the fifth calendar year following successful completion of the examination, or the examination scores will be voided.

New law requires that the applicant show the board that he has completed one year of experience before he is issued a certificate on the basis of certain educational pathways, and two years of experience on the basis of a certain educational pathway.

Prior law provided for issuance or renewal of certificates to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the substantial equivalency standard.

New law changes this to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the mobility standard.

Prior law provided licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the substantial equivalency standard.

New law amends prior law and provides licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the mobility standard.

Prior law provided that the board shall issue an active certificate to a person who desires to establish his principal place of business in this state whose CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of existing and new law as determined by the board or its designee.

New law amends prior law to provide that the CPA qualifications need be comparable to the CPA licensure requirements of existing and new law.

Prior law provided that the board may issue a certificate to a holder of a substantially equivalent foreign designation provided that person received the designation based on educational and examination standards substantially equivalent to those of this state, and completed an experience requirement substantially equivalent to the requirement in prior and existing law.

New law amends the standard from substantially equivalent to comparable.

Prior law provided for practice privileges without the need to obtain a license as provided in prior and existing law for CPAs who have an active, valid license from another state that has qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements.

New law amends prior law to provide that the person with an active valid license in good standing from another state shall have the privileges of active licensees of this state, and will not have to notify or register with the board provided, if at the time of initial licensure, the individual was required to show evidence of having passed the uniform CPA examination and having met one of the following requirements:

(1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.

(2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.

(3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than two years of experience, both as defined by board rule.

Prior law provided that an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant from any which the board or its designee has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the licensure requirements of prior and existing law shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall have all the privileges of active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license required by prior and existing law if such individual verifies that such individual's CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements required by prior and existing law. Prior law further provided relative to such individuals notifying the board.

New law instead provides that an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing from any state as of Dec. 31, 2024, and who, as of that date, had practice privileges in this state in accordance with new and existing law, shall continue to have all the privileges of active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license required by new and existing law or to otherwise notify or register with the board or pay any fee.

Prior law required a fee to be collected by the board for notice under substantial equivalency.

New law repeals that fee.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 37:74(B)(1), (H)(2), and (J)(7), 75(G), 76(A)(1), (C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2), (G)(intro. para.) and (3), and 94(A)(1) and (2); Repeals R.S. 37:73(19) and 74.1(3))