

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;  
and Senator Atwater

302-2554-04

1   A bill to be entitled  
2                 An act relating to public accountancy; amending  
3                 s. 473.308, F.S.; authorizing waiver of certain  
4                 requirements in excess of a baccalaureate  
5                 degree for applicants for licensure as a  
6                 certified public accountant who meet certain  
7                 prior employment criteria; amending s. 473.311,  
8                 F.S.; requiring completion of required  
9                 continuing education in ethics prior to taking  
10                the examination required for renewal of  
11                license; amending s. 473.312, F.S.; requiring a  
12                certain amount of continuing education to be in  
13                ethics; providing course requirements and  
14                requirements for course providers; providing an  
15                effective date.

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17         Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19                Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 473.308, Florida  
20         Statutes, is amended to read:

21                473.308 Licensure.--  
22                (4) If application for licensure is made prior to  
23         October 1, ~~2008~~ 2005, and the applicant has at least 5 years  
24         of experience in the practice of public accountancy in the  
25         United States or in the practice of public accountancy or its  
26         equivalent in a foreign country that the International  
27         Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of  
28         State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure  
29         standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the  
30         United States, or has at least 5 years of experience as an  
31         auditor or accountant in the employment of a unit of federal,

1 state, or local government and that employment required the  
2 use of accounting skills as a substantial part of the  
3 applicant's duties and was under the supervision of a  
4 certified public accountant licensed by a state or territory  
5 of the United States, the board shall waive the requirements  
6 of s. 473.306(2)(b)2. that are in excess of a baccalaureate  
7 degree. All experience that is used as a basis for waiving the  
8 ~~said~~ requirements of s. 473.306(2)(b)2. must be while licensed  
9 ~~experience outside this state. Furthermore, said experience~~  
10 ~~must be after licensure~~ as a certified public accountant by  
11 another state or territory of the United States or while  
12 licensed after licensure in the practice of public accountancy  
13 or its equivalent in a foreign country that the International  
14 Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of  
15 State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure  
16 standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the  
17 United States. The board shall have the authority to establish  
18 the standards for experience that meet this requirement.

19 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 473.311, Florida  
20 Statutes, is amended to read:

21 473.311 Renewal of license.--

22 (1) The department shall renew a license upon receipt  
23 of the renewal application and fee and upon certification by  
24 the board that the licensee has satisfactorily completed the  
25 continuing education requirements of s. 473.312 and has passed  
26 an examination approved by the board on chapter 455 and this  
27 chapter and the related administrative rules. However, each  
28 licensee must complete the requirements of s. 473.312(1)(c)  
29 prior to taking the examination.

30 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 473.312, Florida  
31 Statutes, is amended to read:

1 473.312 Continuing education.--

2 (1)(a) As part of the license renewal procedure, the  
3 board shall by rule require licensees to submit proof  
4 satisfactory to the board that during the 2 years prior to  
5 application for renewal, they have successfully completed not  
6 less than 48 or more than 80 classroom hours of continuing  
7 professional education programs in public accounting subjects  
8 approved by the board. The board may prescribe by rule  
9 additional continuing professional education hours, not to  
10 exceed 25 percent of the total hours required, for failure to  
11 complete the hours required for renewal by the end of the  
12 reestablishment period.

13 (b) Not less than 25 percent of the total hours  
14 required by the board shall be in accounting-related and  
15 auditing-related subjects, as distinguished from federal and  
16 local taxation matters and management services.

17 (c) Not less than 5 percent of the total hours  
18 required by the board shall be in ethics applicable to the  
19 practice of public accounting. This requirement shall be  
20 administered by providers approved by the board and shall  
21 include a review of the provisions of chapter 455 and this  
22 chapter and the related administrative rules.

23 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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25 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
26 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
27 SB 2720

28

28 Clarifies that multiple providers are authorized under the  
29 bill to provide ethics courses.

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