

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to public accountancy; amending s.  
 3           473.308, F.S.; revising and updating education and  
 4           work experience requirements for applicants for  
 5           licensure as a certified public accountant; revising  
 6           provisions governing licensure by endorsement;  
 7           amending s. 473.313, F.S.; revising requirements for  
 8           reactivation of an inactive license as a certified  
 9           public accountant; requiring the Department of  
 10          Business and Professional Regulation to contract for a  
 11          feasibility study to assess the privatization of the  
 12          Division of Certified Public Accounting; providing a  
 13          deadline for completion of the study; providing an  
 14          effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and paragraph  
 19           (b) of subsection (7) of section 473.308, Florida Statutes, are  
 20           amended to read:

21           473.308 Licensure.—  
 22           (4) (a) An applicant for licensure after December 31, 2008,  
 23           must show that he or she has had 1 year of work experience. This  
 24           experience shall include providing any type of service or advice  
 25           involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management  
 26           advisory, financial advisory, tax, or consulting skills, all of  
 27           which must be verified by a certified public accountant who is  
 28           licensed by a state or territory of the United States ~~and who~~

29 ~~has supervised the applicant.~~ This experience is acceptable if  
 30 it was gained through employment in government, industry,  
 31 academia, or public practice; constituted a substantial part of  
 32 the applicant's duties; and was verified by ~~under the~~  
 33 ~~supervision of~~ a certified public accountant licensed by a state  
 34 or territory of the United States. The board shall adopt rules  
 35 specifying standards and providing for the review and approval  
 36 of the work experience required by this section.

37 (7) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by  
 38 endorsement an applicant who:

39 (b)1.a. Holds a valid license to practice public  
 40 accounting issued by another state or territory of the United  
 41 States, if the criteria for issuance of such license were  
 42 substantially equivalent to the licensure criteria that existed  
 43 in this state at the time the license was issued; ~~or~~

44 b. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting  
 45 issued by another state or territory of the United States but  
 46 the criteria for issuance of such license did not meet the  
 47 requirements of sub-subparagraph a.; has met the requirements of  
 48 this section for education, work experience, and good moral  
 49 character; and has passed a national, regional, state, or  
 50 territorial licensing examination that is substantially  
 51 equivalent to the examination required by s. 473.306; or ~~and~~

52 c. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting  
 53 issued by another state or territory of the United States; has  
 54 passed a national, regional, state, or territorial licensing  
 55 examination that is substantially equivalent to the examination  
 56 required by s. 473.306 at least 10 years before the date of

57 application; and has met the requirements of this section for  
 58 good moral character; and

59 2. Has completed continuing education courses that are  
 60 equivalent to the continuing education requirements for a  
 61 Florida certified public accountant licensed in this state  
 62 during the 2 years immediately preceding her or his application  
 63 for licensure by endorsement.

64 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 473.313,  
 65 Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) and (5)  
 66 respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and  
 67 subsection (2) of that section is amended to read:

68 473.313 Inactive status.—

69 (2) A license that has become inactive under subsection  
 70 (1) or for failure to complete the requirements in s. 473.312  
 71 may be reactivated under s. 473.311 upon application to the  
 72 department. The board may prescribe by rule continuing education  
 73 requirements as a condition of reactivating a license. The  
 74 minimum continuing education requirements for reactivating a  
 75 license shall be those prescribed by board rule and those of the  
 76 most recent biennium plus one-half of the requirements in s.  
 77 473.312. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
 78 the continuing education requirements are 120 hours, including  
 79 at least 30 hours in accounting-related and auditing-related  
 80 subjects, not more than 30 hours in behavioral subjects, and a  
 81 minimum of 8 hours in ethics subjects approved by the board, for  
 82 the reactivation of a license that is inactive or delinquent on  
 83 June 30, 2012 ~~2009~~, if the Florida certified public accountant  
 84 notifies the Board of Accountancy by December 31, 2012 ~~2009~~, of

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85 an intention to reactivate such a license and completes such  
86 reactivation by June 30, 2014 ~~2011~~.

87 (3) A license that has become delinquent for failure to  
88 report completion of the requirements in s. 473.312 may be  
89 reactivated under s. 473.311 upon application to the department.  
90 Reactivation requires the payment of an application fee as  
91 determined by the board and certification by the Florida  
92 certified public accountant that the applicant satisfactorily  
93 completed the continuing education requirements set forth under  
94 s. 473.311. If the license is delinquent on December 31 because  
95 of failure to report completed continuing education  
96 requirements, the applicant must submit a complete application  
97 to the board by March 15 immediately after the delinquent period.

98 Section 3. Upon approval of the Board of Accountancy, the  
99 Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall  
100 contract for a feasibility study in accordance with s.  
101 455.32(4), Florida Statutes, to assess the privatization of the  
102 Division of Certified Public Accounting. This study must be  
103 completed no later than November 30, 2012.

104 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.