

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 Board of Accountancy
 10 to conduct a study to assess the privatization of the
 11 Division of Certified Public Accounting; providing a
 12 deadline for completion of the study; providing an
 13 effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

20 473.308 Licensure.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 | good moral character; and

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

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

67 | 473.313 Inactive status.—

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

85 reactivation by June 30, 2014 ~~2011~~.

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

97 Section 3. Upon approval of the Board of Accountancy, the
98 board shall complete a report on the potential cost savings for
99 privatization of the Division of Certified Public Accounting or
100 its functions as outlined in s. 455.32, Florida Statutes. This
101 report must be completed and submitted to the President of the
102 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later
103 than November 30, 2012.

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