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CS/HB 987

2017 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to public accountancy; amending s.  
 3 473.302, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s.  
 4 473.3101, F.S.; providing an exemption to the  
 5 requirement for licensure of certain firms without an  
 6 office in the state; amending s. 473.316, F.S.;  
 7 revising a definition; amending s. 473.323, F.S.;  
 8 providing that suspension or revocation of the right  
 9 to practice before the Public Company Accounting  
 10 Oversight Board is grounds for the imposition of  
 11 penalties as provided by law; providing an effective  
 12 date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 473.302, Florida  
 17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 473.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

19 (9) "Uniform Accountancy Act" means the Uniform  
 20 Accountancy Act, Seventh ~~Fourth~~ Edition, dated May 2014 ~~December~~  
 21 ~~2007~~ and published by the American Institute of Certified Public  
 22 Accountants and the National Association of State Boards of  
 23 Accountancy.

24  
 25 However, these terms shall not include services provided by the

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26 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the  
 27 Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or any full  
 28 service association of certified public accounting firms whose  
 29 plans of administration have been approved by the board, to  
 30 their members or services performed by these entities in  
 31 reviewing the services provided to the public by members of  
 32 these entities.

33 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 34 473.3101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

35 473.3101 Licensure of firms or public accounting firms.—

36 (1) The following must hold a license issued under this  
 37 section:

38 (c)1. Any firm that does not have an office in this state  
 39 but performs the services described in s. 473.3141(4) for a  
 40 client having its home office in this state, unless it:

41 a. Complies with the qualifications described in s.  
 42 473.309.

43 b. Is enrolled in a peer review program pursuant to s.  
 44 473.3125(4).

45 c. Performs services through an individual with practice  
 46 privileges under s. 473.3141.

47 d. Lawfully performs services in a state where an  
 48 individual with practice privileges granted under s. 473.3141  
 49 has his or her principal place of business.

50 2. The board shall define by rule what constitutes an

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51 office.

52 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
53 473.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

54 473.316 Communications between the accountant and client  
55 privileged.—

56 (1) For purposes of this section:

57 (b) A "client" is any person, public officer, corporation,  
58 association, or other organization or entity, either public or  
59 private, who agrees with an accountant or accountant's employer  
60 to receive professional services ~~who consults an accountant with~~  
61 ~~the purpose of obtaining accounting services.~~

62 Section 4. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section  
63 473.323, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

64 473.323 Disciplinary proceedings.—

65 (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the  
66 disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken:

67 (j) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice  
68 before any state or federal agency or the Public Company  
69 Accounting Oversight Board.

70 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.