

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Gruters

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to certified public accountants;
3 amending s. 473.313, F.S.; authorizing certain
4 certified public accountants to apply to the
5 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to
6 place their licenses on retired status; authorizing
7 the Board of Accountancy to prescribe by rule a
8 certain application; providing requirements for the
9 application; providing that a licensee loses retired
10 status in certain circumstances; authorizing a retired
11 licensee to take certain actions without losing
12 retired status; requiring a certain affirmation;
13 authorizing a retired licensee to accept certain
14 reimbursements or per diem amounts; prohibiting a
15 retired licensee from offering or rendering certain
16 professional services; providing for the reactivation
17 of a retired licensee's license; providing
18 requirements for the conditions of such reactivation;
19 providing a definition; amending s. 473.302, F.S.;
20 revising a definition; providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Section 473.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to
25 read:

26 473.313 Inactive status; retired status.—

27 (1) A Florida certified public accountant may request that
28 her or his license be placed in an inactive status by making
29 application to the department. The board may prescribe by rule

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30 fees for placing a license on inactive status, renewal of
31 inactive status, and reactivation of an inactive license.

32 (a)~~(2)~~ A license that has become inactive under this
33 subsection ~~(1)~~ or for failure to complete the requirements in s.
34 473.312 may be reactivated under s. 473.311 upon application to
35 the department. The board may prescribe by rule continuing
36 education requirements as a condition of reactivating a license.
37 The maximum continuing education requirements for reactivating a
38 license are 120 hours, including at least 30 hours in
39 accounting-related and auditing-related subjects, not more than
40 30 hours in behavioral subjects, and a minimum of 8 hours in
41 ethics subjects approved by the board, for the reactivation of a
42 license that is inactive or delinquent.

43 (b)~~(3)~~ A license that is delinquent for failure to report
44 completion of the requirements in s. 473.312 may be reactivated
45 under s. 473.311 upon application to the department.
46 Reactivation requires the payment of an application fee as
47 determined by the board and certification by the Florida
48 certified public accountant that the applicant satisfactorily
49 completed the continuing education requirements set forth under
50 s. 473.311. If the license is delinquent on January 1 because of
51 failure to report completed continuing education requirements,
52 the applicant must submit a complete application to the board by
53 March 15 immediately after the delinquent period.

54 (c)~~(4)~~ Any Florida certified public accountant holding an
55 inactive license may be permitted to reactivate such license in
56 a conditional manner. The conditions of reactivation shall
57 require the payment of fees and the completion of required
58 continuing education.

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59 (d)~~(5)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 455.271, the
60 board may, at its discretion, reinstate the license of an
61 individual whose license has become null and void if the
62 individual has made a good faith effort to comply with this
63 section but has failed to comply because of illness or unusual
64 hardship. The individual shall apply to the board for
65 reinstatement in a manner prescribed by rules of the board and
66 shall pay an application fee in an amount determined by rule of
67 the board. The board shall require that the individual meet all
68 continuing education requirements as provided in paragraph (a)
69 ~~subsection (2)~~, pay appropriate licensing fees, and otherwise be
70 eligible for renewal of licensure under this chapter.

71 (2) A Florida certified public accountant who is at least
72 65 years of age, currently holds an active or inactive license
73 in good standing under this chapter, and is not the subject of
74 any sanction or disciplinary action may request that her or his
75 license be placed on retired status by making application to the
76 department. The board may prescribe by rule the application for
77 placing a license on retired status, which must state that the
78 applicant has no association with accounting or any of the
79 services described in s. 473.302(8). If a licensee who has been
80 granted retired status reenters the workforce in a position that
81 has an association with accounting or any of the services
82 described in 473.302(8), the licensee automatically loses her or
83 his retired status except as provided in paragraph (a).

84 (a) A retired licensee may, without losing her or his
85 retired status, serve without compensation on a board of
86 directors or board of trustees, provide volunteer tax
87 preparation services, participate in a government-sponsored

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88 business mentoring program such as the Internal Revenue
89 Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program or the Small
90 Business Administration's SCORE program, or participate in an
91 advisory role for a similar charitable, civic, or other
92 nonprofit organization.

93 (b) The board shall require a retired licensee to affirm in
94 writing her or his understanding of the limited types of
95 activities in which she or he may engage while in retired status
96 and that she or he has a professional duty to ensure that she or
97 he holds the professional competencies necessary to participate
98 in such activities.

99 (c) A retired licensee may accept routine reimbursement for
100 actual costs of travel and meals associated with volunteer
101 services or de minimis per diem amounts paid to the licensee to
102 cover such expenses as allowed by law.

103 (d) A retired licensee may use the title of "retired CPA"
104 on any business card or letterhead or any other printed or
105 electronic document. However, such title must not be applied in
106 such a manner that could confuse the public as to the current
107 status of the licensee. The licensee is not required to have a
108 certificate issued with the word "retired" on the certificate.

109 (e) A retired licensee is not required to maintain the
110 continuing education requirements under s. 473.312.

111 (f) A retired licensee may not offer or render professional
112 services that require her or his signature and the use of the
113 CPA title, regardless of whether "retired" is attached to such
114 title.

115 (g) A retired licensee may be permitted to reactivate her
116 or his license in a conditional manner as determined by the

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117 board. The conditions of reactivation must require the payment
118 of fees and the completion of required continuing education. The
119 board may prescribe by rule an application for reactivating a
120 license placed on retired status and continuing education
121 requirements as a condition of reactivating a license placed on
122 retired status. The minimum continuing education requirements
123 for reactivating a license placed on retired status are those of
124 the most recent biennium plus one-half of the requirements in s.
125 473.312 for each license biennium or part thereof during which
126 the license was on retired status.

127
128 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "retired licensee"
129 means a licensee whose license has been placed in retired status
130 by the department.

131 Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 473.302, Florida
132 Statutes, is amended to read:

133 473.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

134 (9) "Uniform Accountancy Act" means the Uniform Accountancy
135 Act, Eighth ~~Seventh~~ Edition, dated January 2018 ~~May 2014~~ and
136 published by the American Institute of Certified Public
137 Accountants and the National Association of State Boards of
138 Accountancy.

139
140 However, these terms shall not include services provided by the
141 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the
142 Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or any full
143 service association of certified public accounting firms whose
144 plans of administration have been approved by the board, to
145 their members or services performed by these entities in

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146 reviewing the services provided to the public by members of
147 these entities.

148 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.