

1 SB422  
2 118387-2  
3 By Senator Means  
4 RFD: Industrial Development and Recruitment  
5 First Read: 16-FEB-10

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would provide that any person who  
9 has not previously sat for the uniform CPA  
10 examination and who has completed a total of 150  
11 semester hours or 225 quarter hours of  
12 postsecondary education, including a baccalaureate  
13 degree or higher degree at a college or university  
14 accredited by a regional accreditation board in an  
15 education program that includes an accounting  
16 concentration and other course work as defined or  
17 required by the Alabama State Board of Public  
18 Accountancy, may be granted a certificate of  
19 certified public accountancy.

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21 A BILL  
22 TO BE ENTITLED  
23 AN ACT  
24

25 To amend Section 34-1-4, Code of Alabama 1975,  
26 relating to the granting of certificates to certified public  
27 accountants; to provide that any person who has not previously

1 sat for the uniform CPA examination and who has completed a  
2 total of 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours of  
3 postsecondary education, including a baccalaureate degree or  
4 higher degree at a college or university accredited by a  
5 regional accreditation board in an education program that  
6 includes an accounting concentration and other course work as  
7 defined or required by the Alabama State Board of Public  
8 Accountancy may be granted a certificate of certified public  
9 accountancy.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. Section 34-1-4, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "§34-1-4.

14 "(a) If each of the following qualifications is met,  
15 the certificate of certified public accountant shall be  
16 granted by the board to any person:

17 "(1) Who is a citizen of the United States or, if  
18 not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally  
19 present in the United States with appropriate documentation  
20 from the federal government, or has duly declared his or her  
21 intent to become a citizen.

22 "(2) Who has attained the age of 19 years.

23 "(3) Who is of good moral character.

24 "(4) Who meets the following educational  
25 requirements:

26 "a. A person shall have earned a college degree from  
27 a four-year college or university accredited by a regional

1 accreditation board such as the Southern Association of  
2 Colleges and Universities, with a concentration in accounting  
3 or what the board determines to be substantially the  
4 equivalent of a concentration in accounting. Persons who, on  
5 May 16, 1989, have previously taken the uniform written CPA  
6 examination shall be considered to meet these qualifications.

7 "b. After January 1, 1995, any person who has not  
8 previously sat for the uniform CPA examination shall have  
9 completed a total of 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours  
10 of postsecondary education, including a baccalaureate degree  
11 or higher degree at a college or university accredited by a  
12 regional accreditation board such as the Southern Association  
13 of Colleges and Universities. The total education program  
14 shall include an accounting concentration as defined by the  
15 board and other course work as the board may require by  
16 regulation.

17 "(5)a. Who has successfully passed a uniform  
18 examination, administered by the board or its designee, in  
19 accounting and auditing and in any other related subjects as  
20 the board deems necessary, including, but not limited to,  
21 business law and taxation, to maintain the highest standard of  
22 proficiency in the profession of public accounting.

23 "b. After January 1, 1995, in order to be eligible  
24 for an initial sitting for the uniform CPA examination, a  
25 person shall have completed a total of 150 semester hours or  
26 225 quarter hours of education, including a baccalaureate  
27 degree or higher degree at a college or university accredited

1 by a regional accreditation board such as the Southern  
2 Association of Colleges and Universities.

3 "(b) (1) Examinations provided for in this chapter  
4 shall be given by the board as often as necessary, but not  
5 less frequently than twice each year. The board shall, after  
6 each examination, notify applicants of the results.

7 "(2) The board may issue certificates under the  
8 signature and the official seal of the board, pursuant to this  
9 chapter.

10 "(c) The board shall charge each person certified  
11 under subsection (e) and each candidate an application fee for  
12 the uniform CPA examination in an amount determined by the  
13 board. Examination and reexamination fees shall be charged by  
14 the board, or its designee, in amounts determined by the board  
15 for each subject in which a candidate is examined. The  
16 applicable fees shall be paid to the board, or its designee,  
17 by the candidate at the time he or she applies for examination  
18 or reexamination.

19 "(d) Persons who, on May 16, 1989, held certified  
20 public accountant certificates issued under the laws of this  
21 state shall not be required to obtain additional certificates  
22 under this chapter, but shall otherwise be subject to this  
23 chapter. The certificates issued shall, for all purposes, be  
24 considered certificates issued under this chapter and subject  
25 to this chapter.

26 "(e) The board may waive the examination under  
27 subdivision (a) (5), and may issue a certificate as a certified

1 public accountant to any person paying the application fee  
2 provided in subsection (c) who possesses the qualifications  
3 specified in subdivisions (a) (1) through (a) (3), and what the  
4 board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the  
5 applicable qualifications under subdivision (a) (4), and who is  
6 the holder of a certificate as a certified public accountant,  
7 then in full force and effect, issued under the laws of any  
8 state.

9 "(f) The board may make appropriate regulations to  
10 govern the issuance of a certificate as a certified public  
11 accountant to the holder of a certificate, license, or degree  
12 which is then in full force and effect in any foreign country  
13 constituting a recognized qualification for the practice of  
14 public accounting in the country, comparable to that of a  
15 certified public accountant of this state."

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
17 first day of the third month following its passage and  
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.