

# SENATE BILL 51

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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: October 29, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Accountants – Reciprocal Licenses – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for an individual licensed as a certified public  
4 accountant in another state to practice certified public accountancy in the State; and  
5 generally relating to reciprocal licensure requirements for the practice of certified  
6 public accountancy.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
9 Section 2–301  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
14 Section 2–321  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

20 2–301.

21 Except as provided in § 2–321 of this subtitle, an individual shall be licensed by the  
22 Board before the individual may practice certified public accountancy in the State.

23 2–321.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this section, “practice certified public accountancy” includes the practice of  
2 public accountancy.

3 (b) (1) An individual whose principal place of business is outside the State is  
4 exempt from the licensing requirement under § 2–301 of this subtitle and shall be  
5 considered to have qualifications that are substantially equivalent to a licensee if **THE**  
6 **INDIVIDUAL:**

7 (i) [the individual] holds a valid license as a certified public  
8 accountant from another state; and

9 (ii) [the requirements of that state have been verified by NASBA as  
10 substantially equivalent with the licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act]  
11 **WAS REQUIRED TO PASS THE UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE**  
12 **LICENSE IN THE OTHER STATE.**

13 (2) An individual who qualifies for an exemption under paragraph (1) of  
14 this subsection may exercise all of the privileges of a licensed certified public accountant.

15 (c) [(1) An individual who is licensed by a state that the NASBA National  
16 Qualification Appraisal Service has not verified to be in substantial equivalence with the  
17 CPA licensure requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act may exercise all of the  
18 privileges of a licensed certified public accountant if the individual:

19 (i) retains a principal place of business outside of the State;

20 (ii) holds a valid license as a certified public accountant; and

21 (iii) has qualifications that the NASBA National Qualification  
22 Appraisal Service has determined to be substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure  
23 requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act.

24 (2) An individual who has passed the Uniform CPA Examination and holds  
25 a valid license issued by another state prior to January 1, 2012, may be exempt from the  
26 education requirements in the Uniform Accountancy Act for purposes of this subsection.

27 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who qualifies  
28 for a practice privilege under this section may practice certified public accountancy in the  
29 State:

30 [(i) (1) by any means, including mail, telephone, or electronic  
31 communication; and

32 [(ii) (2) without any notice, fee, or other submission to the Board.

1 (d) As a condition of the practice privilege, an individual who is licensed by  
2 another state and qualifies for a practice privilege under this subtitle and any firm that  
3 employs the individual to practice in the State shall both consent to:

4 (1) the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary authority  
5 of the Board;

6 (2) complying with State public accountancy laws and regulations adopted  
7 by the Board;

8 (3) the appointment of the State Board of Public Accountancy that issued  
9 the individual's license to practice certified public accountancy as the agent upon which  
10 process may be served in any action or proceeding by the Board against the individual; and

11 (4) ceasing to offer or provide services in the State that are subject to this  
12 title if the license issued by the state in which the individual's principal place of business  
13 is located is no longer valid.

14 (e) An individual authorized to practice certified public accountancy under this  
15 section and under the practice privilege may represent to the public, by use of a title,  
16 including "licensed certified public accountant", "certified public accountant", "public  
17 accountant", or "auditor", by use of the abbreviation "CPA", by description of services,  
18 methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the individual is authorized to practice certified  
19 public accountancy in the State.

20 (f) A sole practitioner who is practicing in the State under the practice privilege  
21 may only perform attest services as defined in § 2-101(c)(1), (4), or (5) of this title, through  
22 a firm that holds a permit issued under § 2-401 of this title.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2025.