

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2573

As Recommended by House Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2573 would amend law related to licensure of certified public accountants (CPAs) by creating an alternative set of qualifications and by extending recognition of CPAs licensed in other states if these qualifications are met. The bill would also make technical and conforming amendments.

Under current law, persons who seek to be licensed as a CPA by the Board of Accountancy (Board) must become certified by passing the CPA exam and meet the following requirements:

- Education consisting of a Board-approved degree program that includes a concentration in accountancy culminating in either:
 - A bachelor's degree plus an additional 30 credit hours; or
 - A master's degree; and
- At least one year of work experience under a licensed CPA.

The bill would create an additional set of qualifications for licensure that would allow the Board to license an applicant who has completed a Board-approved accountancy bachelor's degree program and who has completed at least two years of work experience under a licensed CPA in addition to passing the CPA exam.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

CPA Examination Requirements

The bill would make conforming amendments to allow a person who has met the bill's new educational requirements to sit for the CPA examination. [*Note*: Persons who meet the existing law educational requirements would continue to be eligible to sit for the examination.]

Reciprocity

The bill would remove references and provisions in CPA licensing laws related to the "substantial equivalency" standard currently used in licensing or granting privileges to out-of-state CPAs and replace them with provisions that would allow the Board to grant such privileges or license if the other state's license requirements are similar to Kansas, provided all other criteria are met.

Out-of-State Licensees Seeking to Practice in Kansas

The bill would make amendments to CPA licensing law to specify that persons whose principal place of business is not in Kansas but who hold an active license in good standing from any other state will have their license recognized in Kansas without otherwise registering with the Board or paying any fee, provided that at the time of their initial licensure, they show that they met the CPA licensure requirements of the bill.

Out-of-State Licensees With Practice Privileges in Kansas

The bill would make amendments to CPA licensing law to specify that persons whose principal place of business is not in Kansas but who hold practice privileges in Kansas on the effective date of the bill will continue to hold practice privileges in Kansas without otherwise registering with the Board or paying any fee.

Rules and Regulations Authority

The bill would make a conforming amendment in a statutory provision regarding the Board's authority to promulgate rules and regulations for certification purposes by removing authority for the board to define substantial equivalency for purposes of granting privileges or licensing persons who hold an out-of-state CPA license.

Definition

The bill would revise the definition of "principal place of business" to mean the licensee's or applicant's primary office location where the licensee or applicant engages in the practice of certified public accountancy.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Bergkamp.

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the House Committee meeting, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Bergkamp, a member of the Board, a representative of the Kansas Society of CPAs, and a private citizen. The proponents stated that the new pathway to licensure would allow additional qualified applicants to become licensed, while also allowing future CPAs to gain experience sooner. The proponents also noted that a similar approach has been adopted in over 20 other states.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Board states that it is unknown whether enactment of the bill would result in additional individuals becoming licensed CPAs. If the number of licensees increases, then agency revenue and expenditures would increase; however, the agency cannot estimate a fiscal effect.

Certified public accountant; Kansas Board of Accountancy; certificate; permit