Session of 2016

HOUSE BILL No. 2536

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

1-26

AN ACT concerning accountants; relating to licensure; amending K.S.A. the existing sections 2015 Supp. 1-307, 1-308, 1-311, 1-312, 1-321 and 1-322 and repealing

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

public accountant" issued under the laws of any state upon a showing that: of and may issue a certificate to a holder of a certificate as a "certified follows: 1-307. (a) The board, in its discretion, may waive the examination Section 1. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-307 is hereby amended to read as

- upon which the applicant's certificate was based and within the 10 years K.S.A. I-302b(a), and amendments thereto, after passing the examination other state, met all such requirements then applicable in this state; or (C) made;; (B) at the time of the issuance of the applicant's certificate in the applicant's certificate with grades that would have been passing grades at immediately preceding the application; or had four years of experience of the type described in subsection (a) of in this state for the issuance of a certificate at the time application is the time in this state; and the applicant: (A) Meets all current requirements (1) The applicant passed the examination required for issuance of the
- either paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 1-322(a) (1) or (2), and amendments thereto. (2) the applicant meets the substantial equivalency standard set out in
- engage in the practice of certified public accountancy, provided that: designation, granted in a foreign country entitling the holder thereof to (b) The board shall issue a certificate to a holder of a foreign
- similar provision to allow a person who holds a valid certificate issued by this state to obtain such foreign authority's comparable designation; (1) The foreign authority which granted the designation makes
- requirements established by the foreign authority or by law; entitles the holder to issue reports upon financial statements; and (C) was authority that regulates the practice of certified public accountancy and the issued upon the basis of educational, examination and experience foreign designation has not expired or been revoked or suspended; (B) (2) the foreign designation: (A) Was duly issued by a foreign
- and examination standards substantially equivalent to those in effect in this (3) the applicant: (A) Received the designation, based on educational

Prepared by: Charles Reimer, Asst. Revisor of Statutes House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Proposed Balloon Amendments for HB 2536 No. 1 Development

February 8, 2016

regulations and code of ethical conduct in effect in this state acceptable to examination in national standards and an examination on the laws, granted the foreign designation; and (C) passed a uniform qualifying in K.S.A. 1-302b, and amendments thereto, in the jurisdiction which experience requirement, substantially equivalent to the requirement set out state at the time the foreign designation was granted; (B) completed an the board; and

to practice public accountancy. and domestic, in which the applicant has applied for or holds a designation (4) the applicant shall in the application list all jurisdictions, foreign

sole authority to interpret the application of the provisions of this board in writing, within 30 days after its occurrence, of any issuance, subsection. disciplinary or enforcement action by any jurisdiction. The board has the denial, revocation or suspension of a designation or commencement of a Each holder of a certificate issued under this subsection shall notify the

such registration, and meets the following requirements: requirements established by rules and regulations adopted by the board for section, a firm may engage in the practice of certified public accountancy in this state only if the firm registers with the board, complies with follows: 1-308. (a) Unless exempt from registration pursuant to this Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-308 is hereby amended to read as

state or a practice privilege under subsection (a) of K.S.A. 1-322(a), and amendments thereto; be a certified public accountant holding a valid permit to practice from this (1) At least one general partner, shareholder or member thereof musi

valid permit to practice; accounting must be a certified public accountant of this state holding a personally engaged within this state in a practice of certified public accountant and whose principal place of business is in this state and who is (2) each partner, shareholder or member who is a certified public

good standing; accountant thereof must be a certified public accountant in some state in (3) each partner, shareholder or member who is a certified public

state must be a certified public accountant of this state holding a valid permit to practice; and (4) each resident manager in charge of an office of the firm in this

moral character and must be natural persons actively participating in the public accountants in some state. All nonlicensee owners must be of good business of the firm or actively participating in the business of entities members, belongs to the holders of valid licenses to practice as certified terms of equity capital and voting rights of all partners, shareholders or (5) at least a simple majority of the ownership of the firm, in the

such as partnerships, corporations or other business associations, that are affiliated with the firm. Although firms may include nonlicensee owners there shall be at least one certified public accountant who has ultimate responsibility for all the services provided by the firm and, the firm and its ownership must comply with rules and regulations promulgated by the board. Any firm which is denied registration pursuant to this section shall be entitled to notice and an opportunity to be heard pursuant to the Kansas administrative procedures act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of Kansas law, the following must be registered by the board:

- (1) Any firm with an office in this state which practices certified public accountancy; and
- (2) any firm that does not have an office in this state but performs or offers to perform attest services described in subsection (d) of K.S.A. I-321/d), and amendments thereto, for a client having its home office in this state.
- (c) A firm which is not subject to subsection (b) may perform or offer to perform services described in subsection (s) of K.S.A. 1-321(r), and amendments thereto, and may use the "certified public accountant," "CPA" or "CPA firm" without registering with the board only if:
- (1) The individuals performing such services on behalf of the firm have the qualifications described in subsections (b) and (c) of K.S.A. 1-302b(b) and (c), and amendments thereto;
- (2) it performs such services through an individual with practice privileges under K.S.A. 1-322, and amendments thereto; and
- (3) it can lawfully perform such services in the state where such individuals with practice privileges have their principal place of business.
- (d) An individual who has practice privileges under subsection (a) of K.S.A. I-322(a), and amendments thereto, who performs or offers to perform services for which a firm registration is required under this section shall not be required to obtain a certificate or permit under K.S.A. I-310, and amendments thereto.

- (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a professional corporation from practicing in partnership with one or more professional corporations or individuals and being registered with the board as a partnership under this section.
- (f) The term "resident" as used in this section, shall include a person engaged in practice as a certified public accountant in this state, who spends all or the greater part of such person's time during business hours in this state, but who resides in another state.
- (g) Each firm required to register under this section shall register prior to engaging in the practice of certified public accountancy in this state and shall renew the firm's registration by December 31 of each year.

fee may be charged for the registration of a firm. board by affidavit of a general partner, manager or officer of the firm. A proper registration of the firm and shall identify that individual to the (a)-of-K.S.A. 1-322(a), and amendments thereto, who is responsible for the firm which must register pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b)(2) a Each firm shall designate a permit holder of this state, or in the case of a licensee of another state who meets the requirements set out in subsection

suspension or revocation of the firm permit. corrective action to bring the firm back into compliance as quickly as exempt from registration under subsection (c) shall not use the words within a reasonable period as determined by the board will result in the take such corrective action. Failure to bring the firm back into compliance possible. The board may grant a reasonable period of time for a firm to this section due to changes in firm ownership or personnel shall take registered firm. Firms which fall out of compliance with the provisions of admission or withdrawal of a partner, shareholder or member from any its name. Notification shall be given the board, within one month, after the "certified public accountants" or the abbreviation CPA in connection with (h) A firm that is not registered in accordance with this section or not

12 13 14 15 16

987

the approval of the board. by the board, shall not practice under subsection (c) without first obtaining in this state, as a result of having a firm registration revoked or suspended (i) Any firm prohibited from practicing certified public accountancy

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 32 32 29 30 31 27 28 certificate, notification or practice privilege, limit the scope of practice of and amendments-thereto; may censure the holder of any such permit amendments thereto, and any notification issued pursuant to K.S.A. 1-322, K.S.A. 1-310, and amendments thereto, or may demy an application for a permit, revoke or suspend a practice privilege under K.S.A. 1-322, and state, may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any permit issued under \$5,000, for any one of the following causes: any permit holder, and may impose an administrative fine not exceeding certificate, revoke or suspend any certificate issued under the laws of this follows: 1-311. (a) The board may deny an application for a Kansas Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-311 is hereby amended to read as

registration, notification or practice privilege; (1) Fraud, dishonesty or deceit in obtaining a certificate, permit, firm

authority to practice for disciplinary reasons in any other jurisdiction for (2) cancellation, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew a person's

35 35 36 37 37 38 37 38

issuance or renewal of such permit, notification or practice privilege; or practice privilege to maintain compliance with the requirements for (3) failure, on the part of a holder of a permit to practice; notification

(4) sanction, censure, disciplinary action or revocation or suspension

deny an application for a permit,

S

of the right to practice, by the PCAOB or any state or federal agency;

- public accountancy; dishonesty, fraud or gross negligence in the practice of certified
- returns of the person's firm or the timely remittance of payroll and other regarding the timely filing of the person's personal tax returns, the tax (6) failure to comply with applicable federal or state requirements
 - board except for a violation of a rule of professional conduct (7) violation of any provision of this act or rule and regulation of the

taxes collected on behalf of others;

- (8) willful violation of a rule of professional conduct;
- 9 violation of any order of the board;
- under the laws of Kansas; or of any other state, if the acts involved would have constituted a crime dishonesty, deceit or fraud, under the laws of the United States, of Kansas (10) conviction of any felony, or of any crime an element of which is
- certificate; (11) performance of any fraudulent act while holding a Kansas
- registration filed by another; support of an application for a certificate, permit, notification or firm (12) making any false or misleading statement or verification, in
- to K.S.A. 1-501, and amendments thereto; and (13) failure to establish timely compliance with peer review pursuant
- certified public accountancy. (14) any conduct reflecting adversely on a person's fitness to practice
- specify. subsection (a), the board may require of a permit holder satisfactory completion of such continuing education programs as the board may (b) In lieu of or in addition to any remedy specifically provided in
- procedure act and the Kansas judicial review act. conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative (c) All administrative proceedings pursuant to this section shall be
- of the following causes: such remedial action as it deems necessary to protect the public interest, or registration, censure a firm, limit the scope of practice of a firm or impose deny an application to register a firm, revoke or suspend a firm's both, and impose an administrative fine not exceeding \$5,000 for any one follows: 1-312. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the board may K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-312 is hereby amended to read as
- amendments thereto: (1) Failure to meet the requirements of K.S.A. 1-308, and
- fraud, dishonesty or deceit in obtaining a registration;
- of a firm's right to practice, by the PCAOB or any state or federal agency; (3) sanction, censure, disciplinary action or revocation or suspension

(4) dishonesty, fraud or gross negligence in the practice of certified

- conduct; promulgated by the board except for a violation of a rule of professional Annotated, and amendments thereto, and rules and regulations (5) violation of any provision of chapter 1 of the Kansas Statutes
- (6) willful violation of a rule of professional conduct;(7) violation of any order of the board;
- state; authority of a firm to practice certified public accountancy in any other (8) cancellation, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew the
- or of any other state, if the acts involved would have constituted a crime under the laws of Kansas; or dishonesty, deceit or fraud, under the laws of the United States, of Kansas (9) conviction of any felony, or of any crime an element of which is
- to K.S.A. 1-501, and amendments thereto; (10) failure to establish timely compliance with peer review pursuant
- other similarly recognized authoritative technical standards unless: accepted accounting principles, generally accepted auditing standards and 311, and amendments thereto, for failure to comply with generally scope of practice of attest services of any permit holder under K.S.A. 1may not limit the scope of practice of attest services of a firm or limit the as it deems necessary to protect the public interest. However, the board matters relating to attest services, the board may take such remedial action (b) In actions arising under peer review for reports modified for
 - noncompliance with applicable professional standards and practices; or that the firm has exhibited a course of conduct that reflects a pattern of during 12 consecutive years relating to attest services and the board finds (1) The firm has received at least two modified peer review reports
 - peer review committee or the board. (2) the firm has failed to abide by remedial measures required by a
- other similarly recognized authoritative technical standards. an adverse peer review report based on matters relating to attest services if accepted accounting principles, generally accepted auditing standards and the board determines that the firm failed to comply with generally deems necessary to protect the public interest, after the board's review of 311, and amendments thereto; or taking such remedial action as the board the scope of practice of attest services of a permit holder under K.S.A. 1from: Limiting the scope of practice of attest services of a firm or limiting (c) Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed to preclude the board
- define, by rules and regulations, the terms "modified" and "adverse." (d) After considering AICPA standards on peer review, the board may
- At the time of suspension or revocation of a firm's registration, the

upon reinstatement of the firm's registration. member, shareholder or partner of the firm. The permit shall be reinstated shareholder or partner of a firm if the permit holder is the only Kansas board may suspend or revoke the permit to practice of a member,

- procedure act and the Kansas judicial review act. conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative (f) All administrative proceedings pursuant to this section shall be
- the provisions of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 1-311(a), and amendments section if a fine has been assessed for the same or similar violation under The board shall not have the power to assess fines under this
- and amendments thereto, the following terms shall have the meanings follows: 1-321. When used in chapter 1 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, indicated: Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-321 is hereby amended to read as
- one's primary occupation. (a) "Actively participate" means participation that is continuous as
- provided by the CPA firm. firm or provides services to the public that are complementary to those (b) "Affiliated entity" means one that provides services to the CPA
- accountants. (c) "AICPA" means the American institute of certified public
- services: (d) "Attest" means providing the following financial statement
- (1) Any audit or other engagement to be performed in accordance with the statements on auditing standards (SAS); (2) any audit to be performed in accordance with the Kansas
- municipal audit guide; (3) any review of a financial statement to be performed in accordance
- (SSARS); with the statements on standards for accounting and review services (4) any engagement, except a compilation, to be performed in
- (SSAE); and accordance with the statements on standards for attestation engagements (5) any engagement to be performed in accordance with the standards
- of the PCAOB.
- under K.S.A. I-201, and amendments thereto. (e) "Board" means the Kansas board of accountancy established
- certified public accountant issued after examination under the law of any issued under K.S.A. 1-302, and amendments thereto, or a certificate as a (f) "Certificate" means a certificate as a certified public accountant
- "Client" means a person or entity that agrees with a permit holder

or firm to receive any professional service.

- or owners, or both, without undertaking to express any assurance on the services (SSARS) or the statements on standards for attestation statements. financial statements, information that is the representation of management engagements (SSAE) the objective of which is to present in the form of accordance with the statements on standards for accounting and review (h) "Compilation" means providing a service to be performed in
- 9 sent. (i) "Directed" means the location to which the engagement letter is
- 19 81 15 16 17 12 110 parties that do not actively participate in such registered firm. loans to a registered firm from banks, financial institutions or other third registered firm made or held by its owners. "Equity capital" does not K.S.A. 1-308, and amendments thereto; and (2) loans and advances to a contributions or undistributed earnings of a registered firm as referred to in include an interest in bonuses, profit sharing plans, defined benefit plans or (j) "Equity capital" means: (1) Capital stock, capital accounts, capital
 - (k) "Firm" means:
- reports subject to peer review; or (1) An individual who operates as a sole practitioner and who issues
- corporation or limited liability company. partnership, limited liability partnership, general corporation, professional (2) any business organization including, but not limited to, a general
- dishonesty or other a felonious acts act. (1) "Good moral character" means lack of a history of professional
- 27 and amendments thereto, is directed. address to which a service described in subsection (d) of K.S.A. 1-322, (m) "Home office" means the location specified by the client as the
- 30 29 to practice certified public accountancy. issued by another state that is currently in force and authorizes the holder (n) "Active license" means a certificate or a permit to practice
- 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 34 34 34 34 40 practice issued by this state or another state. (E) "Licensee" means the holder of a certificate or a permit to
 - "Manager" means a manager of a limited liability company.
- "Member" means a member of a limited liability company.
 - accountancy. "NASBA" means the national association of state boards of
 - (\$) (r) "Nonattest" means providing the following services:
 - The preparation of tax returns and providing advice on tax
- the preparation of any compilation;
- services, except for attest services; management advisory, consulting, litigation support and assurance

9

(4) financial planning;(5) valuation services; and

- (6) any other financial service not included in the statements on auditing standards, the statements on standards for accounting and review services, the standards for attestation engagements as developed by the American institute of certified public accountants or as defined by the board.
- (t) (s) "PCAOB" means the public company accounting oversight board created by the Sarbanes-Oxley act of 2002.
- (t) (1) "Practice of certified public accountancy" means performing or offering to perform attest or nonattest services for the public while using the designation "certified public accountant" or CPA in conjunction with such services.
- (+) (u) "Practice of public accountancy" means performing or offering to perform attest or nonattest services for the public by a person not required to have a permit to practice or a firm not required to register with the board.
- (w) (v) "Principal place of business" means the office location designated by the licensee for purposes of substantial equivalency and reciprocity.
- (x) (w) "Professional" means arising out of or related to the specialized knowledge or skills associated with CPAs.

- such language; and it includes any other form of language that is referred to or special competence on the part of the person or firm issuing reliability of the uttested information or compiled financial statements conventionally understood to imply any positive assurance as to the competence may arise from use, by the issuer of the report, of names or auditing. Such a statement or implication of special knowledge or or firm issuing it has special knowledge or competence in accounting or attested information or compiled financial statements and that also of language that states or implies assurance as to the reliability of any the any attest or compilation service, means an opinion, report or other form knowledge or competence. conventionally understood to imply such assurance or such special language which disclaims an opinion when such form of language is the language of the report itself. The term report includes any form of titles indicating that the person or firm is an accountant or auditor or from includes or is accompanied by any statement or implication that the person (y) (x) "Report," when used with reference to financial statements
- (z) (y) "Rule" means any rule or regulation adopted by the board.
- (aa) (z) "State" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam; except that "this state" means the state of Kansas.

examination and experience requirements contained in the uniform experience qualifications are comparable to or exceed the education, accountancy act or that an individual CPA's education, examination and examination and experience requirements contained in the uniform experience requirements contained in the statutes and administrative rules accountancy or its designee that the education, examination and sequence in which experience, education or examination requirements accountancy act. In ascertaining substantial equivalency as used in this act of another jurisdiction are comparable to, or exceed the education, were attained. the board shall take into account the qualifications without regard to the (bb) (aa) "Substantial equivalency" is a determination by the board of

9

111 122 133 144 155 166 177 177 188 199 200 201 221 222 233 234 244 355 337 337 by the AICPA and NASBA in existence on July 1, 2007. (ee) (bb) "Uniform accountancy act" means model legislation issued

permit issued under K.S.A. 1-310, and amendments thereto; or the privileges of permit holders of this state without the need to obtain a substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and may be granted all uniform accountancy act shall be presumed to have qualifications be in substantial equivalence with the CPA licensure requirements of the accountancy from any state which the board or its designee has verified to not in this state having an active license to practice certified public follows: 1-322. (a) (1) An individual whose principal place of business is Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-322 is hereby amended to read as

equivalent to the following requirements: practice issued under K.S.A. 1-310, and amendments thereto, if such of permit holders of this state without the need to obtain a permit to equivalent to this state's requirements and may be granted all the privileges equivalency with the CPA licensure requirements of the uniform state which the board or its designee has not verified to be in substantial individuals certified public accountancy qualifications are substantially accountancy act shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially having an active license to practice certified public accountancy from any (2) an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state

a baccalaureate or higher academic degree, with a concentration in university; accounting as defined by the home licensing jurisdiction, from a college or (A) Have at least 150 semester hours of college education, including

uniform certified public accountant examination; and (B) obtains credit for passing each of the four test sections of the

certified public accountant holding an active license to practice. financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, all of which were verified by a involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, (C) possess at least one year of experience including service or advice

examination and holds a valid license to practice certified public HB 2536 Any individual who has passed the uniform certified public accountant

=

765432

accountancy issued by another state prior to January 1, 2012, may be

continue in effect until the expiration date of the permit. subsection (a) shall be granted practice privileges in this state and noan application of notification provided by the board and shall renew such amount of time from the date of such notification to the board to complete commencing practice in this state. Such individuals shall have a reasonable Permits-issued-pursuant to this section prior to November 1, 2009, shall notice, fee or other submission shall be provided by any such individual. means, and pessesses the qualifications set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) of November-1, 2009, whether in person, by mail, telephone or electronic of law, an individual who offers or renders professional services on or after governing notification and renewal. Notwithstanding any other provision notification on a biennial basis. The board may enact rules and regulations exempt from the education requirement in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a)(2)(4) for the purposes of this section. Kansas pursuant to subsection (a) shall notify the board prior to (b) Individuals seeking to practice certified public accountancy in

- such notification pursuant to K.S.A. 1-301, and amendments thereto-The board may charge a fee for such notification and a renewal of
- simultaneously consent, as a condition of the grant of this privilege: under subsection (b) (a) and the firm which employs that licensee hereby (d) (b) Any licensee of another state exercising the privilege afforded
- To the personal and subject matter jurisdiction of this board;
- proceeding by the Kansas board against the licensee; licenses as the agent upon whom process may be served in any action or to the appointment of the state regulatory body which issued their
- state of the individual's principal place of business is no longer valid; and individually and on behalf of the firm in the event that the license from the (3) to cease offering or rendering professional services in this state

- (4) to comply with this act and the board's rules and regulations.
- in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB; may only do so through a attestation engagements (SSAE); and (5) any engagement to be performed to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for and review services (SSARS); (4) any engagement, except a compilation, performed in accordance with the statements on standards for accounting municipal audit guide; (3) any review of a financial statement to be to be performed in accordance with the statements on auditing standards performs any of the following services: (1) Any audit or other engagement this section who, for any client having its home office in this state, (SAS); (2) any audit to be performed in accordance with the Kansas (e) (c) An individual who has been granted practice privileges under

40

HB 2536 \overline{c}

- firm which has registered pursuant to K.S.A. 1-308, and amendments
- practice privileges under this section without first obtaining the approval practice privilege revoked or suspended by the board, shall not be granted accountancy in this state, as a result of having a permit, certificate or (f) (d) Any individual prohibited from practicing certified public
- (g) (e) A holder of a permit to practice issued by this state offering or rendering services or using a CPA title in another state may be subject to disciplinary action in this state for an act committed in another state for which the permit holder would be subject to discipline for an act of the board. made by the board of accountancy of another state. committed in the other state. The board shall investigate any complaint
 - Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 1-307, 1-308, 1-311, 1-312, 1-321 and 1-
- publication in the statute book. 322 are hereby repealed. Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its