

CHAPTER 2024-97

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 813

An act relating to certified public accountants; amending s. 473.313, F.S.; authorizing certain certified public accountants to apply to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to place their licenses on retired status; authorizing the Board of Accountancy to prescribe by rule a certain application; providing requirements for the application; providing that a licensee loses retired status in certain circumstances; authorizing a retired licensee to take certain actions without losing retired status; requiring a certain affirmation; authorizing a retired licensee to accept certain reimbursements or per diem amounts; prohibiting a retired licensee from offering or rendering certain professional services; providing for the reactivation of a retired licensee's license; providing requirements for the conditions of such reactivation; providing a definition; amending s. 473.302, F.S.; revising a definition; providing an effective date.

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

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

473.313 Inactive status; retired status.—

(1) A Florida certified public accountant may request that her or his license be placed in an inactive status by making application to the department. The board may prescribe by rule fees for placing a license on inactive status, renewal of inactive status, and reactivation of an inactive license.

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

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

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

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

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

(a) A retired licensee may, without losing her or his retired status, serve without compensation on a board of directors or board of trustees, provide volunteer tax preparation services, participate in a government-sponsored business mentoring program such as the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program or the Small Business Administration's SCORE program, or participate in an advisory role for a similar charitable, civic, or other non-profit organization.

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

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

(d) A retired licensee may use the title of "retired CPA" on any business card or letterhead or any other printed or electronic document. However, such title must not be applied in such a manner that could confuse the public

as to the current status of the licensee. The licensee is not required to have a certificate issued with the word “retired” on the certificate.

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

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

(g) A retired licensee may be permitted to reactivate her or his license in a conditional manner as determined by the board. The conditions of reactivation must require the payment of fees and the completion of required continuing education. The board may prescribe by rule an application for reactivating a license placed on retired status and continuing education requirements as a condition of reactivating a license placed on retired status. The minimum continuing education requirements for reactivating a license placed on retired status are those of the most recent biennium plus one-half of the requirements in s. 473.312 for each biennium or part thereof during which the license was on retired status.

For the purposes of this subsection, the term “retired licensee” means a licensee whose license has been placed in retired status by the department.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 15, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 15, 2024.