

Notice of Rulemaking Comment Period and Policy-Making Hearing

February 16, 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy will hold a policy-making hearing on **Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 10:00am at the Board Office, The Apothecary Building, 140 N. 8th Street, Suite 290, Lincoln, Nebraska** (The scheduled January 6, 2010 meeting was postponed due to inclement weather conditions) The purpose of this hearing is to receive public testimony on amendments to rules promulgated by the Board of Public Accountancy relating to changes initiated by the passage of LB 31 to the Public Accountancy Act allowing for Mobility of CPAs. In addition other changes include model regulations regarding proceedings before the Board, and other updated amendments to the Title 288 regulations. The subject matter and purpose of the rule making action is:

The Board conducted a review of regulations under the NAC Title 288. Proposed changes include:

- *Chapter 1/ Updated language to allow the Board to transmit policy decisions in formats other than a newsletter*
- *Chapter 3/ Provide specific definitions to compliment new Mobility provisions and clarify other definitions.*
- *Chapter 4/ Delete current language and insert recommended model procedures involving contested cases before the Board as provided by the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. Delete and update language within the Board's QEP program.*
- *Chapter 5/ Include provisions to allow for the collection of reasonable fees when providing requested records to clients.*
- *Chapter 6/Delete obsolete language related to the former paper/pencil CPA examination. Also, allow for biometric screening at test centers and provisions related to cheating on the examination.*
- *Chapter 7/ Include provisions for Mobility regarding use of the term "Inactive Registrant".*
- *Chapter 8/ Provide for the use of ½ hour increments in reporting Continuing Professional Education and amend requirements for retention of documents.*
- *Chapter 9/ Include new accreditation level definitions and delete obsolete language regarding education before the 150-hour education requirement was instituted within the Public Accountancy Act. Amend provisions to meet the 150-hour requirement with advanced degrees other than in accounting. Also, amend provisions to no longer require a licensee have an active CPA permit in their original state of issuance for reciprocity.*

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- ***Chapter 10/ Delete obsolete language related to Public Accountants as required in LB31 within changes to the Public Accountancy Act.***
- ***Chapter 11/ Delete obsolete language related to Public Accountants as required in LB31 within changes to the Public Accountancy Act.***

The rule-making hearing is being conducted by virtue of the provisions of Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 84-907, R.R.S. which provisions require that copies of the proposed rule or rule change are available for public examination at the office of the Board of Public Accountancy, 290 The Apothecary Building, 140 N. 8th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, (402) 471-3595, and at the office of the Secretary of State, Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. A complete statement on the fiscal impact of the proposed rules may be examined at the office of the Board of Public Accountancy at The Apothecary Building, Suite 290, 140 N. 8th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

All interested persons are invited to attend and testify at the hearing. Interested persons may also submit written comments prior to the hearing, which comments will be made a part of the hearing record at the time of the hearing. Anyone needing reasonable accommodations to review the drafts or participate in this process, please contact the Board office at (402) 471-3595 or within Nebraska at 1-800-564-6111 or by emailing to Dan.Sweetwood@Nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

Dan Sweetwood
Executive Director

Jo Lowe
Administrator