

Subject Public Accounting
Authors Van Binsbergen and others
Analyst Colbey Sullivan
Date March 17, 2025

Overview

This bill would modify eligibility criteria for certified public accountants (CPAs), as enforced by the Minnesota Board of Accountancy. H.F. 1458 would modify education and experience requirements for those who apply for initial certification as a CPA, and the reciprocity criteria for CPAs who are licensed in another state and practice in Minnesota.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Certificate; required education and experience until July 1, 2030. Provides that the existing education and experience requirements for CPA certification, including the 150 semester-hour education requirement, expire on July 1, 2030.
2	Certificate; required education and experience after June 30, 2030. Establishes alternative education and experience criteria that would replace the criteria in section 1 beginning July 1, 2030. In place of the 150 semester-hour education requirement, applicants would be required to hold a master's degree and have at least one year of acceptable experience, or a bachelor's or graduate degree and at least two years of acceptable experience.
3	Transitional period. Provides that from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2030, the board must award CPA certification to a person who satisfies the education and experience criteria under section 1 or 2, and other relevant certification requirements in statute or rule. Effective date: This section would take effect January 1, 2026.
4	Mobility. Modifies reciprocity requirements for CPAs from other states. Provides that an individual whose principal place of business is in another state may operate in Minnesota without a license if the person is certified/licensed/permitted and in good

Section	Description
---------	-------------

standing in another state, has a bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent as determined by the board in rule, and has passed the Uniform CPA Examination.

Effective date: This section would take effect the day following final enactment.

5 **Repealer.**

Repeals the Minnesota Board of Accountancy rule governing substantial equivalency for CPAs from other states.

Effective date: This section would take effect the day following final enactment.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155



Affiliated with
National Society of Accountants
Established in 1940

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Phone: 612-366-1983
Fax: 763-263-8020
Website: www.mapa-mn.com
Email: info@mapa-mn.com

PO Box 301
Big Lake, MN 55309

President

ALYCIA GILB, CPA

Vice President

CHAD SILBERNICK, RAP, EA

Secretary

OPEN POSITION

Treasurer

JACEN GONDRINGER, CPA

Past President

DIANE ST. SAUVER, CPA

Executive Director

ERIN NEBBEN

March 17, 2025

Representative Scott Van Binsbergen
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 1458 (Van Binsbergen) – Expanding pathways to CPA licensure

Dear Chair Nash, Chair Klevorn and committee members,

The Minnesota Association of Public Accountants (MAPA) represents small-to medium-size accounting practices that service businesses and individuals throughout Minnesota. MAPA membership includes Certified Public Accountants, Public Accountants, Enrolled Agents, and Registered Accounting Professionals.

MAPA strongly supports House File 1458 (Van Binsbergen) and efforts to broaden pathways to Certified Public Accountant Licensure. House File 1458 is a vital step in addressing the challenges facing the CPA profession, particularly in expanding accessibility and attracting a diverse pool of qualified candidates to the accounting field.

The current 150-hour education requirement is a significant barrier for many aspiring CPAs, limiting entry into the profession while failing to keep pace with the evolving needs of businesses and the workforce. The alternative pathways to licensure proposed in HF 1458 maintains the high standards of our profession while providing the additional flexibility that will help alleviate the growing CPA shortage.

Modernizing licensure requirements will ensure Minnesota remains a competitive and attractive state for future accountants to build their careers.

MAPA urges support and passage of House File 1458 to assist in sustaining the integrity and growth of the CPA profession while creating new opportunities for aspiring accountants across the state.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and support.

Sincerely,

Alycia Gilb, CPA
Minnesota Association of Public Accountants



March 17, 2025

Re: HF1458 (Van Binsbergen) Standards for required education and experience modified for certified public accountants, and reciprocity established for licensed public accountants.

Dear Chair Nash and Members of the State Government Finance & Policy Committee:

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) we write to express our support for HF1458 (Van Binsbergen), which would create additional pathways to licensure for Certified Public Accountants.

In recent years, the number of CPAs in Minnesota has steadily declined. A significant barrier to the CPA licensure process is the added expense incurred by students to meet the credit requirement, which makes it a difficult major when compared to other similar fields of study that may provide higher wages while also requiring a lower credit accrual threshold. This workforce shortage has resulted in accounting firms struggling to fill open positions and therefore reduce their client base, which has caused cities to be dropped as clients by their auditors due to lack of capacity. Additionally, as the supply of auditors becomes more stressed, the cost of an audit has increased substantially, with a negative impact to city and county budgets. An important reminder, cities and counties have annual audit obligations that necessitate the use of both public and private auditing services. In addition, cities that do not meet audit requirements risk losing Local Government Aid, which can have a negative financial impact and ultimately result in increased property taxes.

Due to the decreasing number of CPAs in the state, cities and counties have also had difficulty in finding qualified candidates to fill finance director positions. As our communities continue to grow and evolve, the need for skilled financial professionals to support cities in their financial planning, reporting, and decision-making has never been greater. Expanding licensure pathways would not only help meet the growing demand for these professionals but also ensure that a diverse range of individuals can pursue the career of being a CPA.

We are grateful to Rep. Van Binsbergen for bringing this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Owen Wirth
League of Minnesota Cities

Matt Hilgart
Association of Minnesota Counties