



March 7, 2024

Senator Jordan Rasmusson
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2409
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rasmusson,

On behalf of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), we appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding Senate File 1660 which attempts to increase the number of licensed CPAs. While the goal of Senate File 1660 is admirable, the proposed licensure pathways contained in the bill are not in line with the national CPA pipeline discussion currently underway. Most importantly, the bill could negatively impact the ability of CPAs licensed in Minnesota from freely practicing across state lines without encountering administrative burdens.

The AICPA is the world's largest member association representing the CPA profession, with more than 415,000 members in the United States and worldwide, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. AICPA members represent many areas of practice, including business and industry, public practice, government, education and consulting. AICPA sets ethical standards for its members and U.S. auditing standards for private companies, not-for-profit organizations, and federal, state and local governments. It develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination, offers specialized credentials, builds the pipeline of future talent and drives continuing education to advance the vitality, relevance and quality of the profession.

Currently, Minnesota requires candidates for CPA licensure to obtain 150 semester hours of education, complete one year of professional experience, and successfully pass the Uniform CPA Examination. These licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to those adopted across the country and allow CPAs in Minnesota to take advantage, both in-person and virtually, of a national system of cross border practice. Senate File 1660 proposes two additional pathways that would take Minnesota out of alignment with the national standard and could result in Minnesota CPAs from freely practicing in another state. This misalignment could result in higher administrative costs and burdens. Moreover, it could risk licensees' ability to serve clients in a timely manner and create more exposure to non-compliance with various state laws.

Ultimately, we believe Senate File 1660 is a premature and unilateral attempt at finding a solution to a national problem. To appropriately address all facets of the decline in the accounting profession, CPA profession stakeholders formed the National Pipeline Advisory Group to use a data-driven, highly collaborative, and inclusive approach to tackle issues that have led to declining numbers of accounting graduates and CPA candidates. These efforts are taking a holistic look at the pipeline challenges in a holistic manner, including the licensing requirements, associated with becoming a CPA. Additionally, this effort is seeking to balance any new, national licensing requirements with the ability of licensed CPAs to practice across state lines without the need for an additional license.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate File 1660 and would welcome the opportunity to better align the bill's goal of bolstering the pipeline into the CPA profession with the national strategy currently underway. If the AICPA can assist in this process, please contact Marta Zaniewski at Marta.Zaniewski@aicpa-cima.com.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Okorie Ramsey' and the signature on the right is 'Susan S. Coffey'.

Okorie Ramsey, CPA, CGMA, PMP, NACD.DC
Chair – AICPA

Susan S. Coffey, CPA, CGMA
Chief Executive Officer – Public Accounting

cc:

Senator Kari Dziedzic
Senator Nicole Mitchell
Senator Bruce D. Anderson
Senator Calvin K. Bahr
Senator Jim Carlson
Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski
Senator Steve Drazkowski
Senator Omar Fateh
Senator Heather Gustafson
Senator John R. Jasinski

Senator Mark W. Koran
Senator Andrew R. Lang
Senator Erin K. Maye Quade
Senator Kelly L. Morrison