

(1) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS, CONFORMING WITH THIS SECTION, TO ESTABLISH CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AS A CONDITION TO THE RENEWAL OF LICENSES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE INITIAL RENEWAL OF A LICENSE.

(3) (I) TO QUALIFY FOR ANY FURTHER RENEWAL OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION, A LICENSEE SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST 80 HOURS DURING EACH 2-YEAR TERM IN PROGRAMS THAT THE BOARD APPROVES.

(II) IF A LICENSEE COMPLETES MORE THAN 80 HOURS DURING A 2-YEAR LICENSE TERM, THE BOARD SHALL CREDIT THE EXCESS HOURS TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING TERM.

(4) A LICENSEE MAY MEET A PART OF THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENT, NOT TO EXCEED 40 HOURS PER LICENSE TERM, BY:

(I) PARTICIPATION IN COURSES OF HOME STUDY THAT THE BOARD APPROVES; OR

(II) SERVICE AS A TEACHER, LECTURER, OR DISCUSSION LEADER IN COURSES APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN ACCOUNTING OR RELATED SUBJECTS.

(5) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER ITEM (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LICENSEE MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION TO QUALIFY FOR LICENSE RENEWAL UNDER THIS SECTION.

(6) ON REQUEST OF A LICENSEE, THE BOARD MAY ALLOW THE LICENSEE TO SUBSTITUTE THE PASSAGE OF AN EXAMINATION FOR A NUMBER OF PROGRAM HOURS. IF THE BOARD GRANTS A LICENSEE'S REQUEST UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM HOURS THAT MAY BE SATISFIED BY PASSAGE OF THE EXAMINATION.

(B) CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS.

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE SET TO ENSURE REASONABLE KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTANCY BY CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, THEREBY ENSURING A HIGH STANDARD OF PRACTICE IN THE PROFESSION;

(2) PROVIDE FOR PROGRAMS IN THE VARIOUS SPECIALIZED AREAS OF ACCOUNTANCY IN WHICH CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS PRACTICE;

(3) PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS FOR A LICENSEE TO QUALIFY THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

(I) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS;