

Concise Explanatory Statement

Rhode Island Government Register

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Board of Accountancy

RULE IDENTIFIER: 400-RICR-00-00-1

REGULATION TITLE: Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Board of Accountancy

RULEMAKING ACTION: Full Rulemaking, Amendment

Public Comment Period: June 1, 2020, to July 1, 2020

REASON FOR RULEMAKING:

The Rhode Island Board of Accountancy (“Board”) proposed amendments to the Continuing Professional Education (“CPE”) provisions of its regulation in §§ 1.2 and 1.8. These amendments were first promulgated as emergency amendment effective on May 21, 2020. Through this full rulemaking, the Board has proposed to make these amendments permanent.

The proposed amendments modify the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements for Certified Professional Accountants (CPAs) by: streamlining the requirements to make compliance easier for CPA licensees; incorporating the updated national CPE standards which allow for virtual learning; and providing a mechanism for CPAs to request extensions of time to complete CPEs during the current or future state of emergencies declared by the Governor.

CHANGES TO TEXT OF THE RULE:

The Board received one email in response to the notice to interested parties, which contained a personal licensing question regarding the CPE extension and no comments on the proposed amendments. The Board’s staff responded directly to the individual.

No changes were made to the text of the proposed rule as a result of this comment. Therefore, the final rule is the same as the rule proposed.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS:

These amendments modernize the CPE rules to ease compliance burdens for CPAs. With the expansion of learning options, the regulatory environment can better support the goal of continued CPA competence. More modern and streamlined continuing education requirements will help with retaining the roll of active CPA registrations and attracting new CPAs to choose to

register in Rhode Island. These amendments provide broader societal benefits by fostering public trust in this profession that provides critical financial services to Rhode Island businesses and individuals and incentivizing continued renewals and registrations of CPAs available to provide these services.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.