

CHAPTER 235

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

SENATE BILL 19-155

BY SENATOR(S) Williams A. and Priola, Tate;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Kraft-Tharp and Snyder, Bockenfeld, Buentello.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 2018 SUNSET REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal** (16)(a)(IV); and **add** (31)(a)(II) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal. (16) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, will repeal on July 1, 2019:

(IV) ~~The state board of accountancy created in article 2 of title 12, C.R.S.;~~

(31) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2030:

(II) THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY CREATED IN ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 12.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-2-132 as follows:

12-2-132. Repeal of article. (1) This ~~article~~ ARTICLE 2 is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2019~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2030.

(2) ~~Prior to such~~ BEFORE THE repeal, the state board of accountancy ~~shall be reviewed as provided in~~ IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH section 24-34-104. ~~C.R.S.~~

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-102, **amend** the introductory portion and (1)(a) as follows:

12-2-102. Definitions. As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Accredited college or university" means either:

(a) A college or university ~~which~~ THAT is accredited by one of the following regional accrediting agencies OR THEIR SUCCESSOR AGENCIES:

(I) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;

(II) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

(III) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

(IV) ~~The northwest association of schools and colleges~~ NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;

(V) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

(VI) The ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS, Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-115, **amend** (3)(a); and **add** (4)(c) as follows:

12-2-115. Use of the title "certified public accountant". (3) (a) Except as authorized in subsection (4) of this section, a person shall not assume or use the title or designation "certified public accountant", the abbreviation "C.P.A.", or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that ~~such~~ THE person is a certified public accountant unless the person holds a certificate as a certified public accountant issued under this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 2 or under the laws of any other state. A person who is inactive pursuant to ~~section 12-2-122.5~~ SECTION 12-2-115.5 (2) may use the title "inactive certified public accountant" or "inactive C.P.A."

(4)(c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO SECTION 12-2-120 (6)(a)(II) MAY USE AN ACCOUNTING DESIGNATION THAT INCLUDES THE WORD "MANAGEMENT" CONFERRED BY A BONA FIDE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCOUNTING ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAs, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS, OR THE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATIONS, IF THE DESIGNATION DOES NOT PURPORT TO CONFER THE RIGHT TO PERFORM AUDIT OR ATTEST SERVICES AS DEFINED BY ANY STATE OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend with amended and relocated provisions** 12-2-115.5 as follows:

12-2-115.5. Status - retired - inactive. (1) **Retired status.** (a) Any person who has received from the board and holds a certificate of certified public accountant, including an expired certificate of certified public accountant that remains subject to renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement, may apply to the board for retired status. The board may grant ~~such~~ RETIRED status by issuing a retired status certificate of certified public accountant to any person who meets established conditions prescribed by the board.

~~(2)~~ (b) Any person issued a retired status certificate of certified public accountant may be styled and known as a "retired certified public accountant" or "retired C.P.A."

~~(3)~~ (c) During ~~such~~ THE time as a certified public accountant remains in a retired status, ~~such~~ THE person shall not perform those acts set forth in section 12-2-120 (6)(a) and (6)(b). The board ~~shall retain~~ RETAINS jurisdiction over retired status certified public accountants.

~~(1)~~ (2) **[Formerly 12-2-122.5] Inactive status.** (a) The holder of a certificate of certified public accountant, upon ~~written~~ notice ~~by first class mail~~ to the board IN ANY FORM OR MANNER DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD, shall have ~~his or her~~ THE HOLDER'S name transferred to an inactive list and shall not be required to comply with the continuing education requirements for certificate renewal pursuant to section 12-2-119 so long as ~~he or she~~ THE HOLDER remains inactive. Each inactive certificant shall register in the same manner as active certificate holders and pay a fee pursuant to section 12-2-108 (3). ~~At such time as an inactive certificant wishes~~ To resume the practice of public accounting as a certified public accountant, ~~he or she shall~~ THE HOLDER MUST file an application, ~~therefor,~~ meet any education requirements imposed by the board, and pay a fee as established by the director of the division of professions and occupations within the department of regulatory agencies.

~~(2)~~ (b) During ~~such~~ THE time as a certified public accountant remains in an inactive status, the certified public accountant shall not perform those acts restricted to active certified public accountants pursuant to section 12-2-120 (6)(a). The board ~~shall retain~~ RETAINS jurisdiction over inactive certified public accountants for the purposes of disciplinary action pursuant to section 12-2-123.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-119, **amend** (5) and (9) as follows:

12-2-119. Continuing education. (5) (a) As a condition of renewing, reactivating, or reinstating a certificate of certified public accountant, every applicant shall comply with continuing education requirements adopted by the board.

(b) A NONRESIDENT CERTIFICATE HOLDER APPLYING TO RENEW, REACTIVATE, OR REINSTATE A CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT ISSUED IN THIS STATE THAT DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE, THROUGH AN ATTESTATION SUBMITTED WITH A RENEWAL, REACTIVATION, OR REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION, WITH THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL, REACTIVATION, OR REINSTATEMENT OF A CERTIFICATE IN THE STATE IN WHICH THE CERTIFICATE

HOLDER'S PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED IS DEEMED TO HAVE SATISFIED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

(9) The board shall determine in each case whether a holder of certificate of certified public accountant has complied with continuing education requirements adopted by the board OR HAS DEMONSTRATED COMPLIANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF THIS SECTION, WITH THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-120, **amend** (6)(a)(II) introductory portion, (6)(e), and (9); and **add** (6)(a)(II)(C), (6)(a)(II)(D), and (6)(a)(II)(E) as follows:

12-2-120. Unlawful acts. (6) (a) (II) ~~No~~ A person, partnership, professional corporation, or limited liability company shall NOT, without an active certificate of certified public accountant or a valid registration:

(C) OFFER AUDIT OR ATTEST SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IF THE INDIVIDUAL USES A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-2-115 (4)(c);

(D) ESTABLISH, PARTICIPATE IN, OR PROMOTE A BUSINESS THAT USES A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-2-115 (4)(c) IN ITS MARKETING IF THE BUSINESS IS NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 2; OR

(E) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, OFFER OR RENDER TAX SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WHILE USING A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-2-115 (4)(c), UNLESS DOING SO WITHIN A PARTNERSHIP, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, OR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS THAT HOLDS A REGISTRATION OR PERMIT ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF THIS STATE OR ANOTHER STATE.

(e) ~~The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (6) shall~~ EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (6)(a)(II)(E) OF THIS SECTION, SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT prohibit the performance by persons other than certified public accountants of other services involving the use of accounting skills, including the preparation of tax returns and the preparation of financial statements without the expression of opinions or assurances ~~thereon~~ ON THE RETURNS OR STATEMENTS.

(9) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (6)(a)(II)(E) OF THIS SECTION, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from preparing or assisting in the preparation of any report or tax return to any agency of the federal, state, or local government or other political subdivision if ~~such~~ THE preparation or assistance is otherwise permissible under law or under the regulations of ~~such~~ THE agency or from affixing the signature of the person or firm so preparing or assisting in the preparation of any such report or return to ~~said~~ THE report or return.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-121, **amend** (2)(a) as follows:

12-2-121. Exceptions - acts not prohibited - rules. (2) (a) (I) Nothing in this ~~article shall prohibit~~ ARTICLE 2 PROHIBITS a certified public accountant whose

principal place of business is located in another state or jurisdiction of the United States from practicing in this state on professional business, as defined by rules promulgated by the board. ~~Such~~ THE practice shall be conducted in conformity with rules promulgated by the board.

(II) Notwithstanding the requirements of section 12-2-117, a foreign partnership, corporation, limited partnership, LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP, limited liability limited partnership, or limited liability company may engage in the practice of accountancy in this state without registering with the board IF THE PRACTICE IS INCIDENT TO THE ENTITY'S REGULAR PRACTICE OUTSIDE THIS STATE, AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD. THE ENTITY SHALL CONDUCT THE PRACTICE IN CONFORMITY WITH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-123, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1)(j); and **add** (1)(s) as follows:

12-2-123. Grounds for disciplinary action - administrative penalties.

(1) After notice and hearing as provided in section 12-2-125, the board may deny the issuance of, refuse to renew, revoke, or suspend any certificate of a certified public accountant issued under this article 2 or any prior law of this state or may fine, issue a letter of admonition to, or place on probation the holder of any certificate and impose other conditions or limitations ON A PERSON for any of the following causes:

(j) ~~Providing public accounting services to the public for a fee~~ Without an active certificate of certified public accountant or a valid registration:

(I) PROVIDING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC FOR A FEE; OR

(II) Acting as a ~~member, partner, or shareholder~~ RESIDENT MANAGER of a ~~partnership or professional corporation registered pursuant~~ AN ENTITY THAT IS SUBJECT to section 12-2-117;

(s) FRAUDULENT, COERCIVE, OR DISHONEST PRACTICES OR DEMONSTRATED INCOMPETENCE, UNTRUSTWORTHINESS, OR FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY IN COLORADO, ANOTHER STATE, A UNITED STATES TERRITORY, OR A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-2-126, **amend** (1)(b)(II)(A) as follows:

12-2-126. Investigations, examinations, and cease-and-desist orders against unlawful act. (1) (b) (II) Upon completing an investigation, the board shall make one of the following findings:

(A) The complaint is without ~~merit~~ MERIT, and no further action need be taken.

SECTION 11. Repeal of relocated provisions in this act. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 12-2-122.5.

SECTION 12. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-103, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1)(a) as follows:

12-100-103. Definitions. As used in this article 100, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Accredited college or university" means either:

(a) A college or university that is accredited by one of the following regional accrediting agencies OR THEIR SUCCESSOR AGENCIES:

(I) The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;

(II) The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

(III) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges;

(IV) ~~The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges~~ NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;

(V) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

(VI) The ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS, Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or

SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-112, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (3)(a); and **add as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (4)(c) as follows:

12-100-112. Use of the title "certified public accountant". (3) (a) Except as authorized in subsection (4) of this section, a person shall not assume or use the title or designation "certified public accountant", the abbreviation "C.P.A.", or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that the person is a certified public accountant unless the person holds a certificate as a certified public accountant issued under this article 100 or under the laws of any other state. A person who is inactive pursuant to section ~~12-100-119~~ 12-100-113 (2) may use the title "inactive certified public accountant" or "inactive C.P.A."

(4)(c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO SECTION 12-100-116 (1)(a)(II) MAY USE AN ACCOUNTING DESIGNATION THAT INCLUDES THE WORD "MANAGEMENT" CONFERRED BY A BONA FIDE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCOUNTING ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAs, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS, OR THE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATIONS, IF THE DESIGNATION DOES NOT PURPORT TO CONFER THE RIGHT TO PERFORM AUDIT OR ATTEST SERVICES AS DEFINED BY ANY STATE OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION.

SECTION 14. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172 with amended and relocated provisions** 12-100-113 as follows:

12-100-113. Status - retired - inactive. (1) **Retired status.** (a) Any person who has received from the board and holds a certificate of certified public accountant, including an expired certificate of certified public accountant that remains subject to renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement, may apply to the board for retired status. The board may grant retired status by issuing a retired status certificate of certified public accountant to any person who meets established conditions prescribed by the board.

~~(2)~~ (b) Any person issued a retired status certificate of certified public accountant may be styled and known as a "retired certified public accountant" or "retired C.P.A."

~~(3)~~ (c) During the time a certified public accountant remains in a retired status, the person shall not perform those acts set forth in section 12-100-116 (1)(a) and (1)(b). The board ~~shall retain~~ RETAINS jurisdiction over retired status certified public accountants.

~~(4)~~ (2) **[Formerly 12-100-119] Inactive status.** (a) The holder of a certificate of certified public accountant, upon ~~written notice by first-class mail~~ to the board IN ANY FORM OR MANNER DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD, shall have ~~his or her~~ THE HOLDER'S name transferred to an inactive list and shall not be required to comply with the continuing education requirements for certificate renewal pursuant to section 12-100-115 so long as ~~he or she~~ THE HOLDER remains inactive. Each inactive certificant shall register in the same manner as active certificate holders and pay a fee pursuant to section 12-20-202 (1). ~~At such time as an inactive certificant wishes~~ To resume the practice of public accounting as a certified public accountant, ~~he or she shall~~ THE HOLDER MUST file an application, ~~therefor,~~ meet any education requirements imposed by the board, and pay a fee as established by the director.

~~(2)~~ (b) During ~~such~~ THE time as a certified public accountant remains in an inactive status, the certified public accountant shall not perform those acts restricted to active certified public accountants pursuant to section 12-100-116 (1)(a). The board ~~shall retain~~ RETAINS jurisdiction over inactive certified public accountants for the purposes of disciplinary action pursuant to section 12-100-120.

SECTION 15. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-115, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1) and (5) as follows:

12-100-115. Continuing education - rules. (1) (a) As a condition of renewing, reactivating, or reinstating a certificate of certified public accountant, every applicant shall comply with continuing education requirements adopted by the board.

(b) A NONRESIDENT CERTIFICATE HOLDER APPLYING TO RENEW, REACTIVATE, OR REINSTATE A CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT ISSUED IN THIS STATE THAT DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE, THROUGH AN ATTESTATION SUBMITTED WITH A RENEWAL, REACTIVATION, OR REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION, WITH THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL, REACTIVATION, OR REINSTATEMENT OF A CERTIFICATE IN THE STATE IN WHICH THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED IS DEEMED TO HAVE SATISFIED THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

(5) The board shall determine in each case whether a holder of certificate of certified public accountant has complied with continuing education requirements adopted by the board OR HAS DEMONSTRATED COMPLIANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION, WITH THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED.

SECTION 16. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-116, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1)(a)(II) introductory portion, (1)(e), and (2); and **add as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1)(a)(II)(C), (1)(a)(II)(D), and (1)(a)(II)(E) as follows:

12-100-116. Unlawful acts - definition. (1) (a) (II) ~~No~~ A person, partnership, professional corporation, or limited liability company shall NOT, without an active certificate of certified public accountant or a valid registration:

(C) OFFER AUDIT OR ATTEST SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IF THE PERSON USES A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-100-112 (4)(c);

(D) ESTABLISH, PARTICIPATE IN, OR PROMOTE A BUSINESS THAT USES A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-100-112 (4)(c) IN ITS MARKETING IF THE BUSINESS IS NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 100; OR

(E) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, OFFER OR RENDER TAX SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WHILE USING A TITLE OR DESIGNATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-100-112 (4)(c), UNLESS DOING SO WITHIN A PARTNERSHIP, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, OR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS THAT HOLDS A REGISTRATION OR PERMIT ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF THIS STATE OR ANOTHER STATE.

(e) ~~The provisions of~~ EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)(E) OF THIS SECTION, subsection (1)(a) of this section ~~shall~~ DOES not prohibit the performance by persons other than certified public accountants of other services involving the use of accounting skills, including the preparation of tax returns and the preparation of financial statements without the expression of opinions or assurances ~~thereon~~ ON THE RETURNS OR STATEMENTS.

(2) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)(E) OF THIS SECTION, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from preparing or assisting in the preparation of any report or tax return to any agency of the federal, state, or local government or other political subdivision if the preparation or assistance is otherwise permissible under law or under the regulations of the agency or from affixing the signature of the person or firm so preparing or assisting in the preparation of the report or return to the report or return.

SECTION 17. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-117, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (2)(a) as follows:

12-100-117. Exceptions - acts not prohibited - rules. (2) (a) (I) Nothing in this article 100 ~~shall prohibit~~ PROHIBITS a certified public accountant whose principal place of business is located in another state or jurisdiction of the United States from

practicing in this state on professional business, as defined by rules promulgated by the board. The practice shall be conducted in conformity with rules promulgated by the board.

(II) Notwithstanding the requirements of section 12-100-114, a foreign partnership, corporation, limited partnership, LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP, limited liability limited partnership, or limited liability company may engage in the practice of accountancy in this state without registering with the board IF THE PRACTICE IS INCIDENT TO THE ENTITY'S REGULAR PRACTICE OUTSIDE THIS STATE, AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD. THE ENTITY SHALL CONDUCT THE PRACTICE IN CONFORMITY WITH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

SECTION 18. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-120, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1) introductory portion and (1)(h); and **add as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (1)(o) as follows:

12-100-120. Grounds for disciplinary action - administrative penalties.

(1) After notice and hearing as provided in section 12-100-123, the board may take disciplinary or other action as authorized in section 12-20-404 and impose other conditions or limitations ON A PERSON for any of the following causes:

(h) ~~Providing public accounting services to the public for a fee~~ Without an active certificate of certified public accountant or a valid registration:

(I) PROVIDING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC FOR A FEE; OR

(II) Acting as a ~~member, partner, or shareholder~~ RESIDENT MANAGER of a ~~partnership or professional corporation registered pursuant~~ AN ENTITY THAT IS SUBJECT to section 12-100-114;

(o) FRAUDULENT, COERCIVE, OR DISHONEST PRACTICES OR DEMONSTRATED INCOMPETENCE, UNTRUSTWORTHINESS, OR FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY IN COLORADO, ANOTHER STATE, A UNITED STATES TERRITORY, OR A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

SECTION 19. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-100-124, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** (2)(b)(I) as follows:

12-100-124. Investigations - findings - board actions - confidentiality of complaints. (2) (b) Upon completing an investigation, the board shall make one of the following findings:

(I) The complaint is without ~~merit~~ MERIT, and no further action need be taken.

SECTION 20. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** 12-100-130 as follows:

12-100-130. Repeal of article. This article 100 is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2019~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2030. Before the repeal, the state board of accountancy is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

SECTION 21. Repeal of relocated provisions in this act. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal as relocated by House Bill 19-1172** 12-100-119.

SECTION 22. Effective date - applicability. (1) This act:

(a) Takes effect July 1, 2019; except that sections 12 through 21 of this act take effect only if House Bill 19-1172 becomes law, in which case sections 12 through 21 take effect October 1, 2019; and

(b) Applies to conduct occurring on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

SECTION 23. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 20, 2019