

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2824

By: Perry

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to professions and occupations; amending 59 O.S. 2001, Section 15.11, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 125, O.S.L. 2004 (59 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 15.11), which relates to the Oklahoma Accountancy Act; updating language; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 15.11, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 125, O.S.L. 2004 (59 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 15.11), is amended to read as follows:

Section 15.11 A. No individual, other than as described in subparagraph d of paragraph 31 of Section 15.1A of this title, shall assume or use the title or designation "Certified Public Accountant" or the abbreviation "C.P.A." or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate or represent that such individual is a certified public accountant, unless such individual has received a certificate as a certified public accountant and holds a valid permit issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act. All offices in this state for the practice of public accounting by such individual shall be maintained and registered as required by the Oklahoma Accountancy Act.

B. No entity shall assume or use the title or designation "Certified Public Accountant" or the abbreviation "C.P.A." or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card or device tending to indicate or represent that such entity is

composed of certified public accountants unless such entity is registered as a firm of certified public accountants and holds a valid permit issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act. All offices in this state for the practice of public accounting by such entity shall be maintained and registered as required by the Oklahoma Accountancy Act.

C. No individual, other than as described in subparagraph d of paragraph 31 of Section 15.1A of this title, shall assume or use the title or designation "Public Accountant" or the abbreviation "P.A." or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate or represent that such individual is a public accountant, unless such individual is licensed as a public accountant, or is a certified public accountant and holds a valid permit issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act. All offices in this state for the practice of public accounting by such individual shall be maintained and registered as required by the Oklahoma Accountancy Act.

D. No entity shall assume or use the title or designation "Public Accountant" or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate or represent that ~~such~~ the entity is composed of public accountants, unless ~~such~~ the entity is registered as a firm of public accountants and holds a valid permit issued pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Accountancy Act. All offices in this state for the practice of public accounting by such entity shall be maintained and registered as required by the Oklahoma Accountancy Act.

E. No individual or entity shall assume or use the title or designation "Certified Accountant", "Chartered Accountant", "Enrolled Accountant", "Licensed Accountant", "Registered Accountant" or any other title or designation which could be confused with "Certified Public Accountant" or "Public Accountant", or any of the abbreviations "CA", "EA", except as it relates to the

term "enrolled agent" as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, "RA", or "LA", or similar abbreviations which could be confused with "CPA" or "PA"; provided, however, that anyone who holds a valid permit and whose offices in this state for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required by the Oklahoma Accountancy Act may hold oneself out to the public as an "Accountant" or "Auditor".

F. No individual or entity not holding a valid permit shall hold oneself or itself out to the public as an "Accountant" or "Auditor" by use of either or both of such words on any sign, card, letterhead, or in any advertisement or directory, without specifically indicating that such individual or entity does not hold such a permit. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit any officer, employee, partner or principal of any entity from describing oneself by the position, title or office one holds in such organization; nor shall this subsection prohibit any act of public official or public employee in the performance of the duties as such.

G. Any individual or entity who is registered with the Board but does not hold a valid permit issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Accountancy Act may not issue a report on financial statements of any other person, firm, organization recognized by the State of Oklahoma, or governmental unit. This prohibition does not apply to an officer, partner, or employee of any firm or organization affixing a signature to any statement or report in reference to the financial affairs of such firm or organization with any wording designating the position, title, or office that is held therein; nor prohibit any act of a public official or employee in the performance of the duties as such.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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