# State Board of Accountancy May 21, 2025

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# BOARD MEMBERS:

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Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs 9

Monique M. Ericson, CPA, Office of Attorney General Michael Gaizick, CPA

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John J. Grater, CPA Benjamin Holland, CPA, Vice Chair 13 14 Chandra "Dolly" M. Lalvani, CPA 15

John Petchel, Public Member

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#### BUREAU PERSONNEL:

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Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel Ashley P. Murphy, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison Miranda Murphy, Board Administrator

Ray J. Michalowski, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor Carlton Smith, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division

Timothy A. Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of State Angela Solomon, Esquire, Office of Chief Counsel

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#### ALSO PRESENT:

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Jennifer Cryder, CPA, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Tom Fern, CPA, MSTFP, Audit Senior at EisnerAmper Ian Shore, Management Accountant, Revolution Recovery Peter N. Calcara, CAE, Lobbyist, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants

John Nonnemacher, CPA, Snyder & Clemente

Majed Alshamsi, Auditor, Majed Alshamsi Auditing Thomas Ostrowski, CPA, Pennsylvania Society of Tax & Accounting Professionals

Taylor Koch, Fiscal Management Specialist 3, Bureau Finance and Procurement, Department of State Amanda Richards, Fiscal Chief, Bureau of Finance and Operations, Department of State

Kimberly Mattis, Chief, Fiscal Management, Pennsylvania Department of State

# State Board of Accountancy May 21, 2025

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### ALSO PRESENT (Cont.):

Tamie Laudenslager, Fiscal Management Specialist, Bureau of Finance and Procurement, Department of State

Samantha Coco, Senior Staff Accountant, Benco Dental Morgan Walsh, Manager, Advisory at Citrin Cooperman Michael Howard, Accountant, R.T. McCalpin & Associates

14 YJ

15 | Call-In #4478 16 | Call-In #9498

17 | Call-In #0283

Ian Weeber, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
 Inc.

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2 State Board of Accountancy

May 21, 2025

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[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 9:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, to have attorney-client consultations and for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations. The Board returned to open session at 10:30 a.m.]

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The State Board of Accountancy Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

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[Ronald K. Rouse, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed everyone the meeting of the State Board of Accountancy was being held in a hybrid format, both in-person and by livestream teleconference, pursuant to Act 100 of 2021, which requires Boards to use a virtual platform to conduct business when a public meeting is held. He noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary participation constituted consent to be recorded.

Mr. Rouse also noted the Board entered into

5 Executive Session with Board Counsel to have 1 2 attorney-client consultations and for the purpose of 3 conducting quasi-judicial deliberations.] \* \* \* 4 5 Roll Call [Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, requested a roll call 6 7 of Board members. A quorum was present.] 8 Introduction of Attendees 9 [Miranda Murphy, Board Administrator, provided an 10 introduction of attendees.] 11 12 13 Approval of April 17, 2025 Minutes CHAIR OCKER: 14 15 First item on the Agenda is the approval of Minutes. 16 17 Is there a motion to adopt the 18 April 17, 2025 Accountancy Board 19 meeting Minutes at Item No. one on the 20 Agenda? 21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 22 So moved. 23 CHAIR OCKER: 2.4 Is there a second? 25 MS. LALVANI:

6 Second. 1 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Any further discussion? Roll call. 4 5 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 6 7 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 8 aye. 9 [The motion carried unanimously.] 10 11 Case Status Report - No report 12 13 Report of Prosecutorial Division 14 [Timothy A. Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, 15 presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-55-16 014390.1 MR. ROUSE: 17 18 Then regarding the Consent Agreement at 19 Item No. 2 on the Agenda, Case No. 23-20 55-014390, after discussion in Executive Session, I believe the Chair 21 22 would entertain a motion to adopt the 23 Consent Agreement. 24 CHAIR OCKER: 25 Yes. Is there a motion to adopt the

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                  Consent Agreement at Item No. 2 on the
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                  Agenda, Case No. 23-55-014390?
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   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
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                  So moved.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
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                  Is there a second?
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   MS. LALVANI:
8
                  Second.
9
   CHAIR OCKER:
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                  Any further discussion? Roll call,
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                  please.
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13
                  Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson,
14
                  aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye;
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                  Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel,
16
                  aye.
   [The motion carried unanimously. That was the matter
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18
   of BPOA v. Ciro E. Adams.]
                               * * *
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20
   [Timothy A. Fritsch, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
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   presented the Consent Agreement for Case No. 22-55-
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   000591.1
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   MR. ROUSE:
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                  Regarding the Consent Agreement at Item
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                  No. 3 on the Agenda, Case No. 22-55-
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8 000591, after discussion in Executive 1 2 Session, I believe the Chair would 3 entertain a motion to adopt the Consent 4 Agreement. 5 CHAIR OCKER: Yes. Is there a motion to adopt the 6 7 Consent Agreement at Item No. three on the Agenda? Case No. 22-55-000591. 8 9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: So moved. 10 11 CHAIR OCKER: 12 Is there a second? 13 MS. LALVANI: 14 Second. 15 CHAIR OCKER: 16 Any further discussion? Roll call, 17 please. 18 19 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 20 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 21 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 22 aye. 23 [The motion carried unanimously. That was the matter 24 of BPOA v. Leonard F. Polk & Co., P.C.] \* \* \* 25

9 1 Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudication and 2 Order 3 MR. ROUSE: In the matter of BPOA versus Timothy 4 5 Montgomery Zimmerman, Case No. 23-55-018122. This was a matter that was 6 7 discussed in Executive Session, and I believe the Chair would entertain a 8 9 motion to direct Board counsel to 10 prepare a Final Adjudication and Order consistent with the discussion in 11 Executive Session. 12 13 CHAIR OCKER: 14 Yes. In the matter of BPOA versus 15 Timothy Montgomery Zimmerman, Case No. 23-55-018122 at Item No. 4 on the 16 17 Agenda, is there a motion to direct 18 Board counsel to prepare a Final Adjudication and Order consistent with 19 20 the discussion in Executive Session? 21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 22 So moved. 23 CHAIR OCKER: 24 Second? 25 MS. LALVANI:

Second. 1 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Any further discussion? Roll call. 4 5 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 6 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 7 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 8 aye. 9 [The motion carried unanimously.] 10 Report of Board Counsel - Regulations 11 12 [Marc Farrell, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, Office of 13 Chief Counsel, Department of State, presented the 14 Regulatory Report. Mr. Farrell stated the Board had 15 two open regulatory matters, both proposed 16 regulations that required no further input from the 17 Board and were now progressing through the approval 18 The first, Regulation 16A-5517 related to process. 19 Act 41 licensure by endorsement, had been submitted 20 to senior regulatory counsel and was under review. 21 The second, a general revisions package, had already 22 passed the Governor's Office of General Counsel, 23 Budget Office, and Policy Office, and had reached the

Office of Attorney General, which issued a tolling

memo on May 6, 2025 due to technical legal questions.

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Mr. Farrell had collaborated with Board counsel Rouse
to prepare a response. He also noted a possible
third regulatory package might arise concerning fee
increases, which would need to proceed through the
regulatory process.

Mr. Rouse affirmed the Board's prior
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Mr. Rouse affirmed the Board's prior understanding of the issues and confirmed that the general revisions regulation was still with the Office of Attorney General.

Mr. Holland inquired whether the general revisions regulation was still with the Attorney General and asked about its next destination, to which Mr. Farrell responded that once it returned from the Attorney General, it would be sent to the department to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), assuming no further issues were raised.]

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19 Report of Board Chairman

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20 [Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, noted Items 6 and 7 on

21 the Agenda, the Sunshine Act and Gift Ban Policy, are

22 present for review at the Board's leisure.]

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24 Report of Acting Commissioner - No report

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12 Report of Board Administrator - No report 1 2 3 [Monique M. Ericson, CPA, Office of Attorney General, 4 exited the meeting at 10:44 a.m. for recusal 5 purposes.] \* \* \* 6 7 Review of Program Sponsor Applications 8 MR. ROUSE: 9 So Item No. 8 is a Review of Program 10 Sponsor Applications for Erie 11 Insurance. And I believe the Chair 12 would entertain a motion to grant th e 13 Program Sponsor Application of Erie 14 Insurance at Item No. eight in the 15 Agenda. 16 CHAIR OCKER: 17 Yes. Is there a motion to grant the 18 Program Sponsor Application of Erie 19 Insurance at No. 8 on the Agenda? 20 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 21 So moved. 22 CHAIR OCKER: 23 Second? 24 MS. LALVANI: 25 Second.

13 CHAIR OCKER: 1 2 Any discussion? Roll call, please. 3 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 4 5 recused; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 6 7 aye. [The motion carried. Monique Ericson was recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.] \* \* \* 10 11 [Monique M. Ericson, CPA, Office of Attorney General, 12 re-entered the meeting at 10:45 a.m.] 13 \* \* \* 14 Review of CPA Examination Files 15 MR. ROUSE: And I believe the Chair would entertain 16 17 a motion to ratify the denial of the 18 Request to Waive the CPE requirements 19 for Items No. 9 and 10 on the Agenda? 20 CHAIR OCKER: 21 Yes. Is there a motion to ratify the 22 denial of the Request to waive the CPE 23 requirements for Items No. 9 and 10 on 24 the Agenda?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

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14 So moved. 1 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Second? 4 MS. LALVANI: 5 Second. 6 CHAIR OCKER: 7 Any discussion? Hearing none. Roll 8 call. 9 10 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 11 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 12 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 13 aye. 14 [The motion carried unanimously. Those were the 15 matters of No. 9, Lakeisha Price; and No. 10, David 16 Scott.] \* \* \* 17 18 MR. ROUSE: 19 Moving to Item No. 11 on the Agenda, 20 which is Request for Waiver of CPE 21 Requirements approved for ratification. 22 And for that I believe the Chair would 23 entertain a motion to ratify the 24 approval of the Waiver of CPE 25 requirements for Item No. 11 on the

15 1 Agenda. 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Is there a motion to ratify the Yes. approval of the waiver of CPE 4 requirements for Item No. 11 on the 5 Agenda? 6 7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 8 So moved. 9 MS. LALVANI: 10 Second. 11 CHAIR OCKER: 12 Any discussion? Roll call, please. 13 14 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 15 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 16 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 17 aye. 18 [The motion carried unanimously. Item No. 11 was the 19 Request of Brittany Stafsholt.] \* \* \* 20 21 MR. ROUSE: 22 As for Item No. 12 on the Agenda, which 23 is for Matthew Sharp, I believe the 24 Chair would entertain a motion to grant 25 the Request for a Waiver of CPE

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                   requirements for Matthew Sharp, Item
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                   No. 12 on the Agenda.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
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                   Yes.
                         Is there a motion to grant the
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                   Request for a waiver of CPE
                   requirements for Item No. 12 on the
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 7
                   Agenda?
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   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
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                   So moved.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
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                   Second?
   MS. LALVANI:
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13
                   Second.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
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                   Any discussion? Hearing none.
                                                     Roll
16
                   call, please.
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18
                   Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson,
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                   aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye;
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                   Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel,
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                   aye.
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    [The motion carried unanimously.]
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   MR. ROUSE:
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                   Item No. 13 is <u>Jacob Elensky</u>.
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17 S-K-Y. I believe the Chair would 1 2 entertain a motion to deny the Request 3 for a waiver of CPE requirements for 4 Item No. 13 on the Agenda. 5 CHAIR OCKER: Yes. Is there a motion to deny the 6 7 Request for a waiver of CPE requirements for Item No. 13 on the 9 Agenda? ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 10 So moved. 11 12 MS. LALVANI: 13 Second. CHAIR OCKER: 14 15 Any discussion? Hearing none. Roll 16 call, please? 17 18 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, aye; 19 Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, aye. 20 21 [The motion carried unanimously.] \* \* \* 22 23 MR. ROUSE: 24 Next, going to Item No. 14 on the 25 Agenda. Ling Zhou, is it? Z-H-O-U.

18 And I believe the Chair would entertain 1 2 a motion to grant the Request for a 3 waiver of the 20-credit hour per year requirement for 2024 and deny the 4 5 Request for a waiver of the 40 hours 6 self-study limitation. 7 CHAIR OCKER: Is there a motion to grant the Yes. 9 waiver of the 20-credit hour requirement and deny the 40-hour self-10 study requirement? 11 12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 13 So moved. 14 MS. LALVANI: 15 Second. 16 CHAIR OCKER: Any discussion? Hearing none. 17 Roll call, please? 18 19 20 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, aye; 21 Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; Holland, aye; 22 Lalvani, aye; Petchel, aye. 2.3 [The motion carried unanimously.] \* \* \* 2.4 2.5 MR. ROUSE:

19 And so I believe the Chair would 1 2 entertain a motion to grant the 3 Extension of Examination Credits for Items No. 17 through 41 and 43 through 4 5 58. CHAIR OCKER: 6 7 Yes. Is there a motion to grant the Extension of Examination Credits for 9 Items No. 17 through 41 and 43 through 10 58 on the Agenda? ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 11 So moved. 12 13 CHAIR OCKER: Is there a second? 14 15 MS. LALVANI: 16 Second. CHAIR OCKER: 17 18 Any discussion? Hearing none. Roll 19 call, please. 20 21 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 22 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 23 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 24 aye. 25 [The motion carried unanimously. No. 17 is William

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   Oswald; 18 is Amina Abass; 19 is Samir Elroubi; 20 is
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   Tyler Hill; 21 is Gloria Hudson; 22 is Kushal Bhatt;
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   23 is Mercy Thuranira; 24 is Abdulrahman Alzayed;
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   is Renar Edwards; 26 is Matthew Lausch; 27 is Shane
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   Aaron; 28 is Callaghan Dwyer; 29 is Jack Fanning; 30
   is Cameron Delillo; 31 is Scott Laudenbach; 32 is
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   Harsh Pohekar; 33 is Andrew Hagan; 34 is Nuo Chen; 35
   is Katherine Isenberg; 36 is Zoltan Berger; 37 is
   Victoria Gargiule; 38 is Ryan Klauder; 39 is
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   Franchesca Rodriguez; 40 is Natalie Voithofer; 41 is
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   Mohammad Hallak; 43 is Mahmoud Shwika; 44 is Azza
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   Kambal; 45 is Tatiana DePante; 46 is Shaun Thomas;
13
   is Bhalchandra Waheqavkar; 48 is Maureen Lasek; 49 is
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   Samuel Painter; 50 is Menachem Goldberg; 51 is Morgan
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   Mantione; 52 is Yitzchok Jacubowicz; 53 is Wenyin
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   Chen; 54 is Theresa Boyd; 55 is Sophie Majewski; 56
17
   is Najla Naja; 57 is Samantha Coco; and 58 is Travis
18
   Will.]
                              * * *
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   MR. ROUSE:
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                  All right. So let's go to Items No. 15
22
                  and 16 on the Agenda. And I believe
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                  the Chair would entertain a motion to
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                  deny the Extension of Examination
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                  Credits for items 15 and 16 on the
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21 1 Agenda? 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Yes. Is there a motion to deny the Extension of Examination Credits for 4 5 Items No. 15 and 16 on the Agenda? 6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 7 So moved. 8 CHAIR OCKER: 9 Second? 10 MR. GRATER: 11 Second. 12 CHAIR OCKER: 13 Any discussion? Hearing none. Roll 14 call, please. 15 16 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 17 18 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 19 aye. 20 [The motion carried unanimously.] \* \* \* 21 22 [The Board noted, due to a misunderstanding, Agenda 23 items 15 and 16 would be voted on again after item 42 24 has been voted on.] 25

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1	MR. ROUSE:		
2		But we're going to Item No. 42 right	
3		now, which is for <u>Franklin Ator</u> A-T-O-	
4		R. And I believe the Chair would	
5		entertain a motion to grant the	
6		Extension of Examination Credits for	
7		Item No. 42 on the Agenda.	
8	CHAIR OCKER:		
9		Yes. Is there a motion to grant the	
10		Extension of Examination Credits for	
11		Item No. 42 on the Agenda?	
12	ACTING COMMISS	SIONER CLAGGETT:	
13		So moved.	
14	CHAIR OCKER:		
15		Second?	
16	MS. LALVANI:		
17		Second.	
18	CHAIR OCKER:		
19		Any discussion? Hearing none. Roll	
20		call, please.	
21			
22		Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson,	
23		aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye;	
24		Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel,	
25		aye.	

23 [The motion carried unanimously.] 1 2 3 MR. ROUSE: 4 So going back to Item No. 15 on the 5 Agenda, I believe the Chair would 6 entertain a motion to grant the 7 Extension of Credits for Anon, I'll 8 just spell the name. A-N-O-N, last 9 name E-L-N-E-S-H-O-U-K-Y, Item No. 15 10 on the Agenda. 11 CHAIR OCKER: 12 Yes. Is there a motion to deny the 13 Extension of Examination Credit for 14 Item No. 15 on the Agenda? 15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: So moved. 16 MS. LALVANI: 17 18 Second. 19 CHAIR OCKER: 20 Any discussion? Roll call. 21 22 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 23 nay; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 24 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 25 aye.

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   [The motion carried. Monique Ericson opposed the
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   motion. 1
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   MR. ROUSE:
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                  Next, Item No. 16 on the Agenda.
                  believe the Chair would entertain a
 6
7
                  motion to deny the Extension of
                  Examination Credits for Item No. 16 on
9
                  the Agenda.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
                         Is there a motion to deny the
11
                  Yes.
                  Extension of Examination Credits for
12
13
                   Items No. 16 on the Agenda?
14
   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
15
                  So moved.
   MS. LALVANI:
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17
                  Second.
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   CHAIR OCKER:
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                  Any discussion? Roll call, please.
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2.1
                  Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson,
22
                  aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye;
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                  Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel,
24
                  aye.
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    [The motion carried unanimously.]
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25 \* \* \* 1 2 MR. ROUSE: 3 But I'm going to the Request for Extension of Examination Credits denied 4 5 for ratification at Items No. 59 6 through 61. I believe the Chair would 7 entertain a motion to ratify the denial of the Extension of Examination Credits 9 for Item No. 59 to 61. 10 CHAIR OCKER: 11 Is there a motion to ratify the Yes. denial of the Extension of Examination 12 13 Credits for Items No. 59 through 61 on 14 the Agenda? 15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 16 So moved. MS. LALVANI: 17 18 Second. 19 CHAIR OCKER: 20 Any discussion? Roll call, please. 21 2.2 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, 2.3 aye; Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; 2.4 Holland, aye; Lalvani, aye; Petchel, 25 aye.

2.6

- 1 [The motion carried unanimously. Those are Items 59,
- 2 Kyle Harris; 60 is Brian Pitzer; and 61 is Anne
- 3 | Steen.]
- 4
- 5 | Miscellaneous Appointment Bureau of Finance and
- 6 Procurement
- 7 [Taylor Koch, Fiscal Management Specialist 3, Bureau
- 8 of Finance and Procurement, Department of State, noted
- 9 a previous presentation regarding the Annual Budget
- 10 Report in November. Mr. Koch noted that the goal of
- 11 his presentation was to discuss proposed changes to
- 12 renewal and application fees to determine if revenue
- 13 would continue to meet expenditures. The financial
- 14 data presented was current as of April 24, with the
- 15 caveat that figures could change slightly. He
- 16 provided a breakdown of license counts by class over
- 17 the last six fiscal years, grouped by biennial
- 18 periods. Between the last two biennial periods, there
- 19 was a decrease of 678 licensees, representing a 2.3
- 20 percent decline, primarily among certified public
- 21 accountants.
- 22 Mr. Koch noted a recent reversal of this trend,
- 23 with CPA licensees increasing by 47 individuals since
- 24 April, but confirmed that the current presentation
- 25 would use the April figures. He then introduced the

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revenue slide, which outlined projected revenue and fee sources, beginning with historical collections by category over the most recent biennial renewal period.

Mr. Koch presented a detailed breakdown of projected revenue and fees by source for the Board. He explained that during the 2021-2022 biennial period, total revenue was \$3.15 million, which slightly declined to \$3.12 million in the most recent biennial period but was projected to increase to \$3.19 million in the current period. He addressed the seeming contradiction between the previously reported 2.3 percent drop in licensees and the expected revenue increase by noting that the projection was based on the current renewal population, which was slightly higher than the last cycle.

Mr. Koch explained the Board's expenditure history, dividing costs into two main categories: administrative and legal. Administrative costs included expenses such as rent, travel, and membership dues, while legal costs were broken into subsets and charged to the Board through three methods: direct charges, timesheets, and licensee population-based allocations. The data showed a steady increase in total expenditures across three

biennial periods, rising from \$2.4 million to \$2.7 million and then to \$3.29 million.

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He attributed the significant jump in costs primarily to the increased expense of doing business post-2020. Specific drivers of the higher anticipated expenses in the current biennial period included a new licensing system contract costing approximately \$300,000 over two fiscal years, and a new legal case management system costing about \$58,000. These increases applied across all Boards proportionally based on licensee population.

Mr. Koch presented a summary of projected

financial trends for the upcoming biennial periods. He noted that the Board began fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 with a starting balance of \$4.8 million. A slight deficit of approximately \$44,000 was projected during this period, but a rebound was anticipated by 2026-27 as one-time expenses, particularly IT system build contracts, began to phase out. He explained that while the fund balance remained relatively healthy, it was expected to decline gradually over future renewal periods. Therefore, a deeper analysis was warranted to ensure

Mr. Holland inquired whether most expenditures

revenue continued to meet expenditures.

- 1 | were based on billed hours or cost allocation,
- 2 particularly for central services and software. Mr.
- 3 Koch confirmed that many costs were tied to
- 4 | timesheets, especially for staff involved in Board
- 5 operations, prosecutions, or investigations, which in
- 6 turn increased overall costs.
- 7 Mr. Gaizick asked for clarification on the one-
- 8 | time expenses. Mr. Koch responded that for the
- 9 Accountancy Board, approximately \$300,000 was
- 10 allocated in fiscal year 2024-25 and about \$140,000
- 11 | in 2025-26. These were front-loaded expenses tied to
- 12 IT and administrative functions, with significantly
- 13 lower maintenance costs anticipated thereafter.
- Mr. Holland further clarified that most
- 15 administrative and legal expenses were timesheet-
- 16 driven under the umbrella model. Mr. Koch confirmed
- 17 | this and explained that administrative work, such as
- 18 filings and support functions, was tracked by time
- 19 and factored into cost calculations accordingly.
- 20 Ms. Ericson asked Mr. Koch to clarify which
- 21 | budget lines contained the front-loaded one-time
- 22 costs totaling approximately \$300,000 across two
- 23 fiscal periods. Mr. Koch responded that the costs
- 24 were distributed across multiple categories,
- 25 | including Board administration and prosecution,

1 rather than being isolated to a single line item. He
2 emphasized that this allocation pattern was
3 consistent across all Boards.

2.3

Mr. Gaizick referenced future fiscal years 2026-27 and 2030-32, noting a reversal in projected fund balances and inquired whether any one-time costs were anticipated in those years.

Mr. Koch explained that the changes were due solely to standard cost allocations and general inflationary projections, including rising expenses for staffing and benefits. He confirmed there were no additional one-time project costs anticipated for those years beyond standard maintenance, and all projections were based on currently available information.

Board members expressed curiosity on whether the projected cost increases were based on inflation.

Mr. Koch responded that a 3 percent increase was applied as a general safeguard to account for the rising cost of doing business. He emphasized that this estimate was not derived from any specific inflation report or economic index, but rather intended to ensure the Board was financially prepared for potential cost growth in areas such as administration and legal services.

Mr. Holland suggested the use of a compounded annual growth rate for long-term budget forecasting, noting its statistical reliability and ability to smooth volatility.

2.4

Ms. Ericson shifted to revenue projections, confirming with Mr. Koch that anticipated revenue was based on current licensee counts and fee rates. She also questioned whether increases in investigations and prosecution expenses were correlated with a rise in civil penalties.

Mr. Koch explained that penalties were categorized under miscellaneous revenue and that no direct correlation was applied. It was added that more investigations do not necessarily result in more penalties.

Mr. Koch refreshed the Board on the available balance. He explained that the \$4.8 million available balance was held in a restricted revenue account akin to a savings account, not typically used for operating expenses. The account serves as a financial safeguard, and while the Board had increased its balance to \$5.2 million after underspending in 2022-24, they still aimed to maintain reserves for at least two biennial periods. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to address

fluctuations in financial projections and to propose a fee package to stabilize future finances.

2.4

Members of the Board asked how the current balance compared to other Boards, such as the Nursing Board, in terms of available restricted revenue. It was noted that balances were not commensurable, as each Board has varying factors such as licensee populations.

Chair Ocker questioned whether the implied target of \$6.4 million in reserves—equivalent to two biennial revenue periods—was accurate. Board members agreed that maintaining reserves for four years seemed excessive, with a single biennial period being more reasonable. Chair Ocker emphasized that holding \$6.4 million in unused reserves was excessive given the funds could not be accessed for operational use.

Mr. Holland stated the average CPA or the state society would likely ask what value they receive in return for any fee increases. He emphasized that while covering a deficit is understandable, the Board should also be able to justify added value. He raised the possibility of increased administrative support, asking whether additional funding would allow the Board administrator to devote more time specifically to their Board.

Mr. Claggett clarified that this was the only
Board supported by the administrator in question, and
Ms. Murphy added that while the administrator
supervises other staff working on applications, she
is dedicated to this Board.

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Mr. Koch responded to the Board's questions regarding accrued interest on restricted funds. He explained that while the funds do accrue interest, the earnings are returned to the Commonwealth's General Fund and are not retained by the Board. It was noted that this was due to legal requirements.

Chair Ocker asked whether anything discussed at the meeting would influence the final outcome.

Mr. Koch explained that the information presented was only a proposal and that decisions would be made by the Board itself.

It was added that while the Board could not change certain legal requirements, such as where interest goes, it did have decision-making authority regarding other matters like fee options.

Mr. Rouse stated the Board needed clarification on why projected revenues would not meet expenditures during the 2028-2029 and 2029-2030 biennial periods.

He referenced the statutory requirement that fees must be raised or expenses reduced when revenues fall

short.

Mr. Koch responded by explaining that application revenue was the first area reviewed, and the analysis determined the actual cost of processing each application type. He noted that application processing is not meant to generate profit but to cover costs, and the proposed application fee increases—based on legal and administrative review—would generate approximately \$142,000 starting in the 2027 renewal period. These projections included annual 5 percent staff benefit increases.

The Board questioned when the fees were last raised, to which, Mr. Koch confirmed it was 2009.

Mr. Rouse elaborated that the cost calculation considered all personnel involved in processing applications, including Board staff and legal counsel. He noted that using outdated fee structures since 2009 was problematic due to rising staffing costs.

Ms. Ericson questioned how the proposed fee changes correlated with cost increases, particularly since some proposed fees, like the initial application, were decreasing.

Mr. Rouse clarified that the current fees did not reflect current processing costs. Chair Ocker argued

that while fees had remained constant, higher revenues in the past created surpluses that masked rising costs.

Ms. Ericson pointed out that projected expense increases of 3 percent annually seemed inconsistent with the proposed fees. Ms. Lalvani added that a shrinking licensee base due to retirements and relocations had reduced revenue, requiring costs to be spread over fewer individuals.

Mr. Rouse emphasized that application fees and biennial renewal fees were separate concerns, and the current discussion focused only on applications. Mr. Koch agreed, explaining that the proposed fees aimed to shift more cost burden onto initial applicants, as current licensees were subsidizing those expenses. He also confirmed that while the surplus had built up over time, it was driven by renewal fees, which make up roughly 96 percent of revenue, while applications contribute only 4 percent.

Mr. Gaizick supported updating fees but preferred stability over annual increases. He suggested setting application fees high enough to avoid frequent changes.

Mr. Rouse noted that gradual increases were intended to avoid shocking licensees with sudden

large hikes, a method used by other Boards.

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Mr. Gaizick added that some application categories, like Public Accountant Reactivation, were rarely used and questioned the logic of large increases for those.

Mr. Koch stated initial applications accounted for only 4 percent of the Board's total income and were not a major revenue driver. He emphasized that even with the proposed 5 percent increase in application fees, the Board would still face a projected deficit in 2030. In 2029, the projected surplus was only \$53,000, leaving little margin for unforeseen costs. He introduced the need to consider both applications and renewal fees together, noting that current renewal revenue stood at \$2.9 million. A 4 percent increase in the next biennial period would raise renewal fees by \$4 in three license classes and \$6 in the CPE class, generating an additional \$25,000. In subsequent biennial periods, a 5 percent increase was proposed, resulting in greater total revenue with minimal individual impact.

Mr. Koch also explained that a 3 percent projected decrease in licensee counts per biennial period was included as a safeguard against population decline. These adjustments, he concluded, would lead

to consistent positive balances in future periods,
covering rising costs such as staff benefits and
general expenses.

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Chair Ocker asked if this financial analysis was conducted annually, to which, Mr. Koch responded that it was only required when revenues failed to meet expenditures consistently. It was noted that although a full study was not done each year, an annual report is still produced.

Chair Ocker questioned the rationale for projecting five years ahead, suggesting that this was an extensive timeframe for estimating expenses and fees.

Mr. Koch replied that because it typically took two years for a regulation package to be approved and renewals occurred biennially, projecting five years was necessary for responsible planning.

Mr. Koch corrected a previous statement, confirming that only one renewal period's revenue was required. Chair Ocker then noted that with a projected \$5.3 million balance by 2028 and \$3.7 million in renewal revenue, the Board could potentially draw from reserves if projections for 2030 fell short.

Mr. Koch stated current projections showed

- revenues still needed to meet expenditures to avoid a deficit. To this, the Board questioned if any cost-cutting analyses were performed instead of
- 4 immediately increasing revenues.

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costs.

- Mr. Koch replied that the Board could consider

  cost efficiencies, but legally they must ensure

  revenues meet expenditures biannually. Ms. Ericson

  questioned the relationship between the fee

  increases-4 percent initially, then 5 percent-and a 3

  percent annual expense increase, expressing concern

  the fee increases might not keep pace with rising
- Ms. Lalvani added that declining licensee counts, projected at 3 percent per biennial period, complicated the revenue picture.
  - Mr. Rouse cited Section 6 of the CPA Law, explaining fees must be fixed by the Board and reviewed if biennial revenues fail to meet expenditures.
  - Mr. Holland suggested considering the fund balance as part of the state's general fund, questioning whether the Board should use reserves to smooth fee increases and defining acceptable fund balance levels to guide action.
- 25 Mr. Koch clarified the Board aimed to maintain a

reserve equal to one biennial period of expenditures to prevent depletion but acknowledged projections showed fluctuations in surplus and deficit periods.

- Mr. Rouse emphasized that fee increases were triggered by two-year periods when revenues fell short of expenditures, regardless of starting balances.
- Ms. Ericson noted fee increases might not be necessary until 2030, allowing three years before renewal fees needed adjustment. Ms. Lalvani agreed with this statement and noted that the Board could remain financially stable until 2032 if projections held.
  - Mr. Koch stressed the need to plan now due to the two-year regulatory approval timeline, reminding that fees had not increased since 2009, allowing a surplus cushion but requiring safeguards against unforeseen events.
- Mr. Farrell confirmed the last biennial renewal fee increase was in 2009 and application fees in 2000, a gap of 15 to 25 years.
  - Ms. Murphy compared fees to other states, noting initial fees were substantially lower than states with smaller CPA populations.
- 25 Mr. Holland suggested gradually using the fund

balance to reduce fees to an acceptable level; however, Ms. Lalvani responded that was not feasible.

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Ms. Richards added that the fee review process would recur approximately every ten years, she described it as a cyclical adjustment akin to a dividend.

Mr. Koch explained the financial impact of the proposed fee increases. He stated if license counts remained the same, renewal fees would generate an additional \$117,000 in the first biennial period, \$215,000 in the next, and \$359,000 thereafter, totaling a \$692,000 revenue increase from renewals alone. He added that increased application fees would bring an extra \$460,000 over the same timeline, resulting in a total revenue increase of \$1.1 million through fiscal year 2032. He also noted that the projected starting balance would grow from \$4.8 million in 2022 to approximately \$5.97 million.

During this discussion, the Board highlighted the need to balance fee increases, expenditures, licensee population decline, fund reserves, and regulatory timelines to maintain financial stability.

The Board inquired about the next steps following Mr. Koch's presentation. It was suggested that the Board could instruct Regulatory Counsel to prepare an

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   Annex comparing current fees with the proposed
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   increases for a Fee Regulation. This Annex would
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   then be presented to the Board for public and further
   discussion, potentially involving Mr. Koch again,
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   allowing the Board to review the proposed regulation
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   side by side with current fees.]
7
   MR. ROUSE:
8
                 So, would the Chair entertain a motion to
9
                 direct Regulatory Counsel to prepare the
10
                 Annex for a proposed Fee Regulation?
   CHAIR OCKER:
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12
                 Yes. Is there a motion to direct
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                 Regulatory Counsel to prepare the Annex
14
                 for Proposed Fee Regulation?
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   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
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                  So moved.
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   MS. LALVANI:
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                  Second.
   CHAIR OCKER:
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                  Any discussion?
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   [The Board discussed further details to the motion.]
22
   CHAIR OCKER:
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                  Any other discussion? Roll call.
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                 Ocker, aye; Claggett, aye; Ericson, aye;
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Gaizick, aye; Grater, aye; Holland, aye;
Lalvani, aye; Petchel, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

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5 Miscellaneous - Appointments - Jennifer Cryder, CPA,

6 | CEO of PICPA - Regarding Updates in the Profession

7 | [Jennifer Cryder, CPA, MBA, Chief Executive Officer,

8 | Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public

9 Accountants (PICPA), provided an update on licensure

10 developments. She noted that Senate Bill 719 had

11 been introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate with

12 | sponsorship from Senators Hutchinson and Pisciottano.

A companion House bill was also prepared for introduction. She expressed optimism about the bills advancing over the summer, aiming for gubernatorial approval by fall. The current language in the Senate bill would make both the mobility fix and additional

18 licensure pathway effective immediately upon

19 enactment. PICPA was preparing to educate

20 stakeholders statewide to ensure awareness and

21 guidance once changes take effect.

As of the update, 15 states had passed similar legislation, and another 15 were in progress. She described the ongoing transition as varied among

25 states, creating confusion for practitioners,

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particularly regarding cross-border work and mobility compliance. She emphasized that the focus was now on communication and education, and although states were progressing at different speeds, she expected eventual uniform adoption.

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Mr. Gaizick raised a concern about the automatic mobility provisions. It was noted that out-of-state CPAs would not be required to notify or register with the Pennsylvania Board, nor follow all of Pennsylvania's Continuing Education (CE) requirements. He suggested this could create regulatory gaps.

In response, Ms. Cryder explained that the nonotification model had long been in place under
substantial equivalency and would continue under
automatic mobility. She clarified that while no
notification or fee was required, the Board retained
full enforcement and disciplinary authority.

Mr. Rouse confirmed this and explained that under both the current and proposed models, Pennsylvania would not be the principal place of business for those practitioners, and Continuing Education would follow their home state's requirements. He added that enforcement typically occurred through complaints, which could be filed by anyone through

the Pennsylvania Licensing System.

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Mr. Fritsch noted that the Board often received such complaints and would coordinate with other states to obtain licensee information for enforcement purposes.

Mr. Petchel inquired about the situation in Florida, specifically expressing concern about the elimination of their licensing Board and CPE requirements.

Ms. Cryder responded by outlining key developments in Florida, noting broader national trends in deregulation targeting occupational licensing. She explained that a bill recently passed by the Florida House would, if enacted, eliminate all occupational licensing Boards, remove continuing professional education requirements, and commission a study on pathways to licensure without formal education, such as becoming a CPA without a college degree. She emphasized that while Florida represented the most extreme case, similar proposals were emerging in other states. The bill passed the Florida House in under 18 days and was under consideration in the Senate during an extended session necessitated by an unresolved budget. session was extended through June 30, and the bill in

question was the only policy bill under review alongside the budget.

Ms. Lalvani asked if Pennsylvania's CPAs could take any action in response.

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separate.]

6 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, exited the meeting at 12:32 p.m.]

9 | \*\*\*

[Ms. Cryder advised that since the issue was state-specific, any advocacy should come from Florida licensees and employers. She confirmed there were no recommended advocacy steps for Pennsylvania CPAs at that time. In response to a follow-up question, Ms. Cryder clarified that the extended Florida Senate session would run through June 30 and confirmed the occupational licensing bill and the budget bill were

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20 | Miscellaneous - NASBA Updates

21 [Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, noted item 62 is the

22 Q1 2025 Examination Report; 63 is the Q1 2025

23 Candidate Care Report; 64 is the Q1 2025 Enforcement

24 Report; 65 notes the Exam Fee Changes; and 66 is the

25 Great Lakes and Northeast Regions Seeking Nomination

Committee Member Candidates.

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Mr. Gaizick referenced NASBA's first quarter 2025 overall statistics by jurisdiction, noting that Pennsylvania had 1,234 total candidates, which he found lower than expected when compared to states like Alaska with 1,161 and Guam with 1,715. He noted the high number of candidates in Guam and raised concerns about forum shopping, where candidates may choose jurisdictions with more favorable requirements to obtain licensure and then practice elsewhere.

Ms. Murphy explained that Guam attracts a high volume of foreign candidates due to its lower requirements.

Mr. Gaizick acknowledged this and reiterated his concern about forum shopping, especially in the context of CPA licensure law and how candidates could exploit varying state requirements.

Mr. Holland agreed, referencing concerns related to Pennsylvania's proposed 30-month examination requirement and the potential for candidates to pursue licensure in states with faster or more lenient regulatory timelines.

Ms. Cryder clarified that the CPA exam is standardized nationwide and that licensure requirements are fundamentally consistent. However,

- 1 | she identified two risks for Pennsylvania, candidates
- 2 can sit for the exam locally but apply for licensure
- 3 | in jurisdictions like Alaska or Guam, and
- 4 Pennsylvania's slower pace in updating laws and
- 5 regulations could lead to a talent drain. She
- 6 emphasized that the greatest risk was losing
- 7 candidates to faster-moving states.
- 8 Ms. Lalvani added that public accounting firms
- 9 based in Pennsylvania would still likely require
- 10 licensure within the state if it is the firm's
- 11 principal place of business.
- 12 Ms. Cryder agreed but noted that firms interpret
- 13 the concept of principal place of business in
- 14 | increasingly varied ways.]
- 15 \*\*\*
- 16 Miscellaneous Board Committees
- 17 | [Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, noted Agenda item 69,
- 18 | Board Committees. |
- 19 \*\*\*
- 20 Miscellaneous Next Meeting Dates
- 21 | [Michael D. Ocker, CPA, Chair, noted Agenda items 70
- 22 and 71, the Board meeting dates for 2025 and 2026.
- 23 It was noted that the meeting location would be added
- 24 to the Agenda for later discussion.]
- 25 | \*\*\*

1 [Mr. Gaizick noted a previous Agenda item and

- 2 | inquired about the impact of artificial intelligence
- 3 on accounting. He asked if licensure fell within
- 4 | their purview and whether any related regulations
- 5 | should be considered. He suggested the topic might
- 6 warrant inclusion as an Agenda item.
- 7 Ms. Cryder stated NASBA had invited her to
- 8 present on this topic at both the Eastern and Western
- 9 regional meetings. She offered to share her
- 10 presentation with anyone interested.
- It was noted that the issue would need formally
- 12 addressed as an Agenda item.
- 13 Ms. Lalvani added that the only relevant
- 14 discussion she had seen elsewhere was the requirement
- 15 that a natural person must take the exam and complete
- 16 CPE, not artificial intelligence. She noted that
- 17 | this regulation already exists and includes a
- 18 certification step confirming the individual is not a
- 19 robot.
- 20 \*\*\*
- 21 Adjournment
- 22 CHAIR OCKER:
- 23 All right. Anything else? Motion to
- 24 adjourn?
- 25 MS. LALVANI:

49 So moved. 1 2 CHAIR OCKER: 3 Is there a second? MR. GRATER: 4 5 Second. 6 CHAIR OCKER: 7 Meeting adjourned. \* \* \* 8 9 [There being no further business, the State Board of 10 Accountancy Meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.] \* \* \* 11 12 13 CERTIFICATE 14 15 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary 16 minutes of the State Board of Accountancy meeting, 17 was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, 18 and that the minutes accurately summarize the 19 substance of the State Board of Accountancy meeting. 20 2.1 Com Weeber 22 23 Ian Weeber, 24 Minute Clerk 25 Sargent's Court Reporting

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1	Service, Inc.	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 21 31 4 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11		STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY REFERENCE INDEX
		May 21, 2025
	TIME	AGENDA
	9:00 10:30	Executive Session Return to Open Session
	10:31	Official Call to Order
	10:31	Roll Call/Introduction of Attendees
	10:33	Approval of Minutes
	10:33	Report of Prosecutorial Division
	10:40	Report of Board Counsel
	10:44	Report of Board Chairman
	10:44	Report of Acting Commissioner
	10:44	Report of Board Administrator
	11:06	Miscellaneous - Appointment - Bureau of Finance and Procurement - Fee Package Recommendations
	12:19	Miscellaneous - Appointment - Jennifer Cyder, CPA, CEO of PICPA - Updates in Profession
34 35	12:32	Miscellaneous/Discussion
36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44	12:41	Adjournment
46 47 48 49 50		