



# Office of the Auditor General

State of Rhode Island - General Assembly

**David A. Bergantino, CPA, CFE – Auditor General**

[oag.ri.gov](http://oag.ri.gov)

33 Broad Street • Suite 201 • Providence, RI • 02903-4177  
tel: 401.222.2435 • fax: 401.222.2111

April 27, 2026

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair  
Members of the House Corporations Committee  
Room 135, State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I write in support of House Bill No. 7839, Entitled, *An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions-Public Accountancy*.

This bill sets to revise State licensing requirements for certified public accountants (CPAs) consistent with the recent adoption of new model legislation by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). The main change recommended by the AICPA and NASBA is the introduction of a 120-hour education pathway for licensure, allowing two years of experience to substitute for the currently required completion of 30 extra credit hours. This recent change has already been adopted by most States, and this bill will bring Rhode Island statutory requirements in line with the newly adopted provisions.

As the State Auditor General, I fully support the change to allow experienced individuals in accounting practice the opportunity to attain the CPA certification without incurring significant additional expenditures associated with completing additional college coursework. In my 30 years of practice as a CPA, I have concluded that there is no substitute for experience for accountants and auditors that will be counted on to solve the ever-growing complex financial challenges of today and the future. I also greatly hope that this change will lead to renewed interest in the accounting profession amongst those considering a future career and reverse the adverse impact that the additional college credit requirement has had on the profession.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for Senate Bill No. 7839.

Sincerely,

David A. Bergantino, CPA, CFE  
Auditor General