TWELFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1973 (FIRST) Regular Session

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CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Bill No. 184, "An Act to amend Sections 54001, 54003, 54005, 54006, 54007, 54009, 54010, 54012, 54013 and 54017 of the Government Code of Guam and to add Sections 54002.1 and 54002.2 to said Code to permit corporations to practice public accounting", was on the 30th day of March, 1973, duly and regularly passed by the Legislature.

Τ. RAMIRE Speaker

ATTESTED:

J. U. TORRES, Acting Legislative Secretary This Act was received by the Governor this of ______, 1973 at _______ o'clock

tudreus uch L. ANDREWS KEITH

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day .M.

APR 21 1986

Attorney General of Guam

APPROVED:

CAMACHO G.

Governor of Guam

0:32 DATED: -27-23

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TWELFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1973 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 184

Introduced by

G. Lujan

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AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 54001, 54003, 54005, 54006, 54007, 54009, 54010, 54012, 54013 AND 54017 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM AND TO ADD SECTIONS 54002.1 AND 54002.2 TO SAID CCDE TO PERMIT CORPORATIONS TO PRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: Section 1. Section 54001 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54001. Board of Public Accountancy. There is hereby created a Board of Public Accountancy in and for the territory of Guam, to be known as the Territorial Board of Public Accountancy. The Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislature. Members of the Board shall be citizens of the United States who hold certified public accountant certificates issued under the laws of this territory and who are in active practice of certified public accountants. To the extent such persons are not available, persons holding certified public accountant certificates issued by other states or territories, not presently in active practice as certified public accountants, may be appointed to the Board. Should any vacancies still exist, they may be filled by anyone the Governor should appoint. The members of the Board first to be appointed shall hold office, one for one year, two for two years, and two for three years from the effective date of this Act, the term of each to be designated by the Governor. Their successors shall be appointed for

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terms of three years. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of his term of office a member shall continue to serve until his successor shall have been appointed and shall have qualified. The Governor shall remove from the Board any member whose permit to practice has become void, or has been revoked or suspended, and may, after hearing, remove any member of the Board for neglect of duty or other just cause.

The Board shall elect annually a chairman, and a secretary from its members. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Board shall have a seal which shall be judicially noticed. The Board shall keep records of its proceedings, and in any proceeding in court, civil or criminal, arising out of or founded upon any provision of this Act, copies of said records certified as correct under the seal of the Board shall be admissible in evidence as tending to prove the content of said records. The Board shall have printed and published for public distribution each year, an annual register which shall contain the names, arranged alphabetically by classifications, of all practitioners holding permits to practice under this * Act; the names of the members of the Board; and such other matters as may be deemed proper by the Board. Copies of said registers shall be mailed to each permit holder. The Board may employ such personnel and arrange for such assistance as it may require for the performance of its duties.

Members of the Board shall not receive any compensation for performance of the duties imposed by this Chapter.

All fees and other moneys received by the Board pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall be covered into the General Fund of the Treasury of Guam. The Board shall file an annual report of its activities with the Governor.

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The Board may promulgate and amend rules governing its procedures and for the administration of the Act, and, as well, may promulgate and amend rules of professional conduct appropriate to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity and dignity in the profession of public accountancy. At least sixty (60) days prior to the promulgation of any such rule of conduct or amendment, the Board shall mail copies of the proposed rule or amendment to each holder of a permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act, with a notice advising him of the proposed effective date of the rule or amendment and requesting that he submit his comments thereon at least fifteen (15) days prior to such effective date; such comments shall be advisory only. Failure to mail such rule, amendment or notice to all permit holders shall not affect the validity of any such rule or amendment. The Director of Administration, or his duly authorized deputy, both of whom are hereinafter referred to as the 'Director', shall administer the provisions of this Act relating to the actual licensing of accountants, in such duty to use the standards set forth in the Act and by the Board.

The Board may issue any further regulations, including but not limited to rules of professional conduct, pertaining to corporations practicing public accounting which it deems consistent with or required by the public

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one director shall be a shareholder. The other directors need not, but may, be shareholders."

Section 3. Section 54003 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54003. Partnerships and corporations composed of certified public accountants - registration thereof. A partnership engaged in this territory in the practice of public accounting may register with the Director as a partnership of certified public accountants provided it meets with the following requirements:

(a) At least one general partner thereof must be a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(b) Each partner thereof personally engaged within this territory in the practice of public accounting as a member thereof must be a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing:

(c) Each partner thereof must be a certified public accountant of some state or territory in good standing.

(d) Each resident manager in charge of an office or a firm in this territory must be a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing.

A corporation organized for the practice of public * accounting may register with the Board as a corporation of certified public accountants provided it meets the following requirements:

(a) The sole purpose and business of the corporation must be to furnish to the public, services not inconsistent with the Public Accountancy Act or the regulations of the Board; provided that the corporation may invest its funds in a manner not incompatible with the practice of public accounting.

(b) Each shareholder of the corporation must be a certified public accountant of some state or territory in good standing and must be principally employed by the corporation or actively engaged in its business. No other person shall have any interest in the stock of the corporation. The principal officer of the corporation and any officer or director having authority over the practice of public accounting by the corporation must be a certified public accountant of some state or territory in good standing.

(c) At least one shareholder of the corporation must be a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(d) Each resident manager in charge of an office of the corporation in this territory and each shareholder or director personally engaged within this territory in the practice of public accounting must be a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(e) In order to facilitate compliance with the provisions of this section relating to the ownership of stock, there must be a written agreement binding the corporation or the qualified shareholders to purchase any shares offered for sale by, or not under the ownership or effective control of, a qualified shareholder and binding any holder not a qualified shareholder to sell such shares to the corporation or the qualified shareholders. The agreement must be noticed on each certificate of corporate stock. The corporation may purchase any amount of its stock for this purpose, notwithstanding any impairment of capital, so long as one share remains outstanding. (f) The corporation must be in compliance with such other regulations pertaining to corporations practicing public accounting in this territory as the Board may prescribe.

Application for such registration must be made upon the affidavit of a general partner or shareholder who is a certified public accountant of this territory in good standing. The Director shall in each case determine whether the applicant is eligible for registration. A partnership or corporation which is so registered and which holds a permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act may use the words 'certified public accountants' or the abbreviation 'C.P.A.'s' in connection with its partnership name. Notification shall be given the Director, within one month, after the admission to or withdrawal of a partner or shareholder from any partnership or corporation so registered."

Section 4. Section 54005 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54005. Partnerships and corporations composed of public accountants - registration thereof. A partnership engaged in this territory in the practice of public accounting may register with the Director as a partner- * ship of public accountants provided it meets the following requirements:

(a) At least one general partner thereof must be a certified public accountant or a public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(b) Each partner thereof personally engaged within this territory in the practice of public accounting as a member thereof must be a certified public accountant or

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a public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(c) Each resident manager in charge of an office or a firm in this territory must be a certified public accountant or a public accountant of this territory in good standing.

A corporation organized for the practice of public accounting may register with the Board as a corporation of public accountants provided it meets the following requirements:

(a) The sole purpose and business of the corporation must be to furnish to the public, services not inconsistent with the Public Accountancy Act or the regulations of the Board; provided, that the corporation may invest its funds in a manner not incompatible with the practice of public accounting.

(b) Each shareholder of the corporation must be a certified public accountant or a public accountant of this territory in good standing and must be principally employed by the corporation or actively engaged in its business. No other person shall have any interest in the stock of the corporation. The principal officer of the corporation and any officer or director having authority over the practice of public accounting by the corporation must be a certified public accountant or a public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(c) Each resident manager in charge of an office of the corporation in this territory must be a certified public accountant or a public accountant of this territory in good standing.

(d) In order to facilitate compliance with the pro-

there must be a written agreement binding the corporation or the qualified shareholders to purchase any shares offered for sale by, or not under the ownership or effective control of, a qualified shareholder to sell such shares to the corporation or the qualified shareholders. The agreement must be noticed on each certificate of corporate stock. The corporation may purchase any amount of its stock for this purpose, notwithstanding any impairment of capital, so long as one share remains outstanding.

(e) The corporation must be in compliance with such other regulations pertaining to corporations practicing public accounting in this territory as the Board may prescribe.

Application for such registration must be made upon the affidavit of a general partner or shareholder who holds a permit to practice in this territory as a certified public accountant or as a public accountant. The Director shall in each case determine whether the applicant is eligible for registration. A partnership or corporation which is registered and which holds a permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act may use the words 'public accountants' in connection with its partnership name. Notification shall be given the Director, within one (1) month, after the admission to or withdrawal of a partner from any partnership so registered."

Section 5. Section 54006 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54006. Registration of offices. Each office established or maintained in this territory for the practice of public accounting in this territory by z.

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certified public accountant, or partnership or corporation of certified public accountants, or by a public accountant or a partnership or corporation of public accountants, shall be registered annually under this Act with the Director, but no fee shall be charged for such registration. Each such office shall be under the direct supervision of a resident manager who may be either a principal shareholder or a staff employee holding a permit under Section 54007 of this Act, which is in full force and effect; provided, that the title or designation 'certified public accountant' or the abbreviation 'C.P.A.' shall not be used in connection with such office unless such resident manager is the holder of a certificate as a certified public accountant under Section 54002 of this Act and a permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act, both of which are in full force and effect. Such resident manager may serve in such capacity at one office only. The Director shall, by regulation, prescribe the procedure to be followed in effecting such registrations."

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Section 6. Section 54007 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54007. Annual permits to practice. Permits to engage in the practice of public accounting in this territory shall be issued by the Director to holders of the certificate, or certified public accountants, issued under Section 54002 of this Act and to persons, partnerships and corporations registered under Sections 54003, 54004 and 54005 of this Act; provided, all offices of such certificate holder or registrant are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006 of this Act. There shall be an annual permit fee in an amount to be

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determined, from time to time, by the Board, not to exceed Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00). All permits shall expire on the last day of December of each year and may be renewed annually for a period of one year by certificate holders and registrants in good standing upon payment of an annual renewal fee of not to exceed Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00). Failure of a certificate holder or registrant to apply for such annual permit to practice within (a) three (3) years from the expiration date of the permit to practice last obtained or renewed, or (b) three (3) years from the date upon which the certificate holder or registrant was granted his certificate or registration, if no permit was ever issued to him, shall deprive him of the right to such permit, unless the Director determines such failure to have been due to excusable neglect. In such case the renewal fee or the fee for the issuance of the original permit, as the case may be, shall be such amount as the Board shall, from time to time determine, but not in excess of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00)." Section 7. Section 54009 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54009. Revocation or suspension of partnership or corporation registration or permit. After notice and ' hearing as provided in Section 54010 of this Act, the Board shall revoke the registration and permit to practice of a partnership or corporation if at any time it does not have all the qualifications prescribed by the section of this Act under which it qualified for registration.

After notice and hearing as provided in Section 54010 of this Act the Board may revoke or suspend the registration of a partnership or corporation or may revoke, suspend

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or refuse to renew its permit under Section 54007 to practice or may censure the holder of any such permit for any of the causes enumerated in Section 54008, or for any of the following additional causes:

(a) The revocation or suspension of the certificate or registration or the revocation or suspension or refusal to renew the permit to practice of any partner or share-

(b) The cancellation, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew the authority of the partnership or shareholder thereof to practice public accounting in any other state for any cause other than failure to pay an annual registration fee in such other state." Section 8. Section 54010 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54010. Hearings before Board - notice procedure - review. (a) Commencement of proceeding. The Board may initiate proceedings under this Act either on its own motion or on the compliant of any person.

(b) Notice - service and contents. A written notice stating the nature of the charge or charges against the accused and the time and place of the hearing before the Board on such charges shall be served on the accused not * less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of said hearing either personally or by mailing a copy thereof registered mail to the address of the accused last known to the Board.

(c) Failure to appear. If, after having been served with the notice of hearing as provided for herein, the accused fails to appear at said hearing and defend, the Board may proceed to hear evidence against him and may

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enter such order as shall be justified by the evidence, which order shall be final unless he petitions for a . review thereof as provided herein; Provided, however, that within thirty (30) days from the date of any order, the Board may reopen said proceedings and may permit the accused to submit evidence in his behalf.

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(d) Counsel - witnesses - cross-examination. At any hearing the accused may appear in person and, by counsel, produce evidence and witnesses on his own behalf, crossexamine witnesses, and examine such evidence as may be produced against him. A corporation may be represented before the Board by counsel or by a shareholder who is a certified public accountant or public accountant of this territory in good standing. The accused shall be entitled, on application to the Board, to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses on his behalf.

(e) Subpoenas - oaths. The Board, or any member thereof may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, and may administer oaths, take testimony, hear proofs and receive exhibits in evidence in connection with cr upon hearing under this Act. In case of disobedience to the subpoena the Board may invoke the aid of any court of this territory in requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence.

(f) Evidence. The Board shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence.

(g) Record. A stenographic record of the hearingsshall be kept and transcript thereof filed with the Board.(h) Attorney for the Board. At all hearings theAttorney General of this territory, or one of his

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assistants designated by him, or such other legal counsel as may be employed, shall appeal and represent the Board.

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(i) Decision. The decision of the Board shall be by majority vote thereof.

(j) Review by court. Anyone adversely affected by any order of the Board may obtain a reveiw thereof by filing a written petition for review with the Island Court within thirty (30) days after the entry of said order. The petition shall state the grounds upon which the review is asked and shall pray that the order of the Board be modified or set aside in whole or in part. A copy of such petition shall be forthwith served upon any member of the Board and thereupon the Board shall certify and file in the Court a transcript of the record upon which the order complained of was entered. The case shall then be tried de novo on the record made before the Board, without the introduction of new or additional evidence, but the parties shall be permitted to file briefs as in an ordinary case at law. The court may affirm, modify or set aside the Board's order in whole or in part, or may remand the case to the Board for further evidence, and may, in its discretion, stay the effect of the Board's order pending its determination of the case. The Court's decision shall have the force and effect of a decree in equity."

Section 9. Section 54012 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54012. Acts declared unlawful. (a) No person 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 that such

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person is a certified public accountant, unless such person has received a certificate as a certified public accountant under Section 54002 of this Act, holds a permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act which is not revoked or suspended (hereinafter referred to as a 'live permit'), and all of such person's offices in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006.

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(b) No partnership or corporation shall assume or use the title or designation 'certified public accountant' or the abbreviation 'C.P.A.' or any title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card or device tending to indicate that such partnership or corporation is composed of certified public accountants unless such partnership or corporation is registered as a partnership or corporation of certified public accountants under Section 54003 of this Act, holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act and all offices of such partnership or corporation in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006.

(c) No person shall assume or use the title, designation 'public accountant' or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that such person is a public accountant, unless such person is registered as a public accountant under Section 54004 of this Act, holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act and all of such person's offices in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006, or unless such person has received a

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certificate as a certified public accountant under Section 54002 of this Act, holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act and all of such person's offices in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered under Section 54006.

(d) No partnership or corporation 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 that such partnership or corporation is composed of public accountants, unless such partnership or corporation is registered as a partnership or corporation of public accountants under Section 54005 of this Act or as a partnership or corporation of certified public accountants under Section 54003 of this Act and holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this territory and all offices of such partnership or corporation in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006.

(e) No person, partnership or corporation shall assume or use the title or designation 'certified accountant', 'chartered accountant', 'enrolled accountant', 'licensed accountant', 'registered accountant' or any other title * or designation likely to be confused with 'certified public accountant' or 'public accountant', or any of the abbreviations 'CP', 'PA', 'EA', 'RA', or 'LA', or similar abbreviations likely to be confused with 'CPA'; provided, however, that anyone who holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act and all of whose offices in this Act and all of whose offices in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and

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registered as required under Section 54006 may hold himself out to the public as an 'accountant' or 'auditor'.

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(f) No person shall sign or affix his name or any trade or assumed name used by him in his profession or business, with any wording indicating that he is an accountant or auditor, or with any wording indicating that he has expert knowledge in accounting or auditing, to any accounting or financial statement, or to any opinion on, report on or certificate to any accounting or financial statement, unless he holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act, and all of his offices in this territory for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered under Section 54006; provided, however, that the provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit any officer, employee, partner or principal of any organization from affixing his signature to any statement or report in reference to the financial affairs of said organization with any wording designating the position, title or office which he holds in said organization, nor shall the provisions of this subsection prohibit any act of a public official or public employee in the performance of his duties as such.

(g) No person shall sign or affix a partnership or corporation name, with any wording indicating that it is a partnership or corporation composed of accountants or auditors or persons having expert knowledge in accounting or auditing, to any accounting or financial statement, or to any report on or certificate to any accounting or financial statement, unless the partnership or corporation holds a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act and all of its offices in this territory

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for the practice of public accounting are maintained and registered as required under Section 54006.

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(h) No person, partnership or corporation not holding a live permit issued under Section 54007 of this Act, shall hold himself 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 indicating thereon or therein that such person, partnership or corporation does not hold such a permit; provided that this subsection shall not prohibit any officer, employee, partner or principal of any organization from describing himself by the position, title or office he holds in such organization; nor shall this subsection prohibit any act of a public official or public employee in the performance of his duties as such.

(i) No person shall assume or use the title or designation 'certified public accountant' or 'public accountant' in conjunction with names indicating or implying that there is a partnership or in conjunction with the designation 'and Company', or 'and Co.' or a similar designation if, in any such case, there is in fact no bona fide partnership or corporation registered under" Section 54003 or 54005 of this Act; provided, that a sole proprietor or partnership lawfully using such title or designation in conjunction with such names or designation on the effective date of this Act, may continue to do so if he or it otherwise complies with the provisions of this Act."

Section 10. Section 54013 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

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"Section 54013. Exceptions - acts nor prohibited. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit any person not a certified public accountant or public accountant from serving as an employee of, or an assistant to, a certified public accountant or public accountant or partnership or corporation composed of certified public accountants or public accountants holding a permit to practice issued under Section 54007 of this Act; provided, that such employee or assistant shall not issue any accounting or financial statement over his name.

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Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit a certified public accountant or a registered public accountant of another state, or any accountant who holds a certificate, degree or license in a foreign country, constituting a recognized qualification for the practice of public accounting in such country, from temporarily practicing in this territory on professional business incident to his regular practice outside this territory; provided, that such temporary practice is conducted in conformity with the regulations and rules of professional conduct promulgated by the Board."

Section 11. Section 54017 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 54017. Ownership of accountant's working papers. All statements, records, schedules, working papers, and memoranda made by a certified public accountant or public accountant incident to or in the course of professional service to clients by such accountant, except reports submitted by a certified public accountant or public accountant to a client, shall be and remain the property of such accountant, in the absence of an express

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agreement between such accountant and the client to the 1 contrary. No such statement, record, schedule, working 2 paper or memorandum shall be sold, transferred or 3 bequeathed, without the consent of the client or his 4 personal representative or assignee, to anyone other 5 than one or more surviving partners or new partners of 6 such accountant or to his corporation." 7 ----menter services a