

REFER TO LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR UFISINAN I MAGIATEARI AGANA, GUAM 96910 USA

MAY 3 1 1994

The Honorable Joe T. San Agustin Speaker, Twenty-Second Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Street Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

OFFICE OF THE STATE OF THE STAT

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 501, which I have signed into law this date as Public Law 22-132.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK F. BLÁS

Governor, Acting

220725

Attachment



TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1994 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 501 (LS), "AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPHS (d), (f), AND (h) OF §54002; TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH (e) TO \$54002, TO RELETTER PARAGRAPHS (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), AND (i) OF \$54002 TO (f), (g), (h), (i), AND (i) PERFECTIVELY, ND CTЭF 18; ID 21;)F IC

PARAGRAPHS (b), (d), AND (e) C PARAGRAPH (c) OF §54004; TO A §54005, PARAGRAPH (c) OF §540 TO RENUMBER §§54019, 54020, 54024, RESPECTIVELY; AND TO A ALL OF AND TO CHAPTER 1, T GUAM, MAKING TECHNICAL	(g), (h), (i), (j), AND (k), RESPECTIVEL (a), (h), AND (j) OF §54003 AND OF §54004; TO REPEAL AND REENAC AMEND PARAGRAPHS (b) AND (c) (c) OO6, AND PARAGRAPH (b) OF §5401 AND 54021 TO §§54022, 54023, AND ADD NEW §§54019, 54020, AND 5402 TILE LVII, GOVERNMENT CODE (c) AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLICATION OF May, 199
	Joe I ha took
Attested:	JOE T. SAN AGUSTIN Speaker
PILAR C. LUJAN Senator and Legislative Secretary This Act was received by the Governor 1994, at 3:0 o'clock	Λ. ()
	Therese J. Ouenas
APPROVED:	Assistant Staff Officer Governor's Office
FRANK F. BLAS Governor of Guam Acting Date: May 31, 1994	
Public Law No	

TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1993 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 501 (LS)
As substituted by the Committee on Ways and Means and as further substituted by the Committee on Rules

Introducea by:

H. D. Dierking

C. T. C. Gutierrez

V.C. Pangelinan

E. P. Arriola

T. S. Nelson

P. C. Lujan

A. C. Blaz

M. D. A. Manibusan

J. G. Bamba

T. C. Ada

J. P. Aguon

M. Z. Bordallo

D. Parkinson

E. D. Reyes

J. T. San Agustin

F. E. Santos

D. L. G. Shimizu

D. F. Brooks

F. P. Camacho

T. V. C. Tanaka

A. R. Unpingco

AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPHS (d), (f), AND (h) OF §54002; TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH (e) TO §54002, TO RELETTER PARAGRAPHS (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), AND (j) OF §54002 TO (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), AND (k), RESPECTIVELY; TO AMEND PARAGRAPHS (a), (h), AND (j) OF §54003 AND PARAGRAPHS (b), (d), AND (e) OF §54004; TO REPEAL AND REENACT PARAGRAPH (c) OF §54005, PARAGRAPH (c) OF §54006, AND

PARAGRAPH (b) OF §54018; TO RENUMBER §§54019, 54020, AND 54021 TO §§54022, 54023, AND 54024, RESPECTIVELY; AND TO ADD NEW §§54019, 54020, AND 54021; ALL OF AND TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE LVII, GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM, MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY ACT OF GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: 1 2 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of §54002, Title LVII, Government Code, is 3 hereby amended to read: "(d) License means a certificate issued under §54004 of this 4 Chapter, or a permit issued under §54005 or 54006; or in each case a 5 certificate or permit issued under corresponding provisions or prior 6 7 law." 8 Section 2. Paragraph (e) is hereby added to §54002, Title LVII, 9 Government Code, to read: 10 "(e) Licensee means a holder of a license as defined in subsection (d) of §54002." 11 12 Section 3. Paragraph (f) of §54002, Title LVII, Government Code, is 13 hereby amended to read: 14 "(g) Practice of, or practicing public accountancy means the 15 performance or the offering to perform by a person or firm holding 16 of one or more kinds of services involving the use of accounting or 17 auditing skills, including the issuance of reports on financial 18 statements or of one or more kinds of management advisory, 19 financial advisory, or consulting service, or the preparation of tax 20 returns or the furnishing of advice on tax matters."

Section 4. Paragraph (h) of §54002, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:

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- "(i) Report, when used with reference to financial statements, means an opinion, report, or other form of language that states or implies assurance as to the reliability of any financial statements and that also includes or is accompanied by any statement or implication that the person or firm issuing it has special knowledge or competence in accounting or auditing. Such a statement of implication or special knowledge or competency may arise from use by the issuer of the report of names or titles indicating that he or it is an accountant or auditor, or from the language of the report itself. The term report includes any form of language which disclaims an opinion when such form of language is conventionally understood to imply any positive assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements referred to or special competence on the part of the person or firm issuing such language; and it includes any other form of language that is conventionally understood to imply such assurance or such special knowledge or competence."
- **Section 5.** Paragraphs (e), (g), (i), and (j) of §54002, Title LVII, Government Code, are hereby relettered (f), (h), (j) and (k), respectively.
- **Section 6.** Paragraph (a) of §54003, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:
 - "(a) There is hereby created the Guam Board of Accountancy, which shall have responsibility for the administration and enforcement of this Chapter. The Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor, all of whom shall be residents of Guam and holders of certificates currently valid under §54004 of

this Chapter. At least a majority plus one of such members shall be holders of currently valid permits issued under §54005 of this Chapter or corresponding provisions of prior law. The term of each member of the Board shall be four years. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of a member's term of office, such member shall continue to serve until successor shall have been appointed and taken office. Any member of the Board whose certificate under §54004 of this Chapter is revoked or suspended shall automatically cease to be a member of the Board, and the Governor may, after a hearing pursuant to the Administration Adjudication Law, remove any member of the Board for neglect of duty or other cause."

Section 7. Item (5) of paragraph (h) of §54003, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:

- "(5) Rules specifying actions and circumstances that shall be deemed to constitute holding oneself out as a licensee in connection with the practice of public accountancy within the meaning of subsection (f) of §54002."
- Section 8. A new paragraph (j) is hereby added to §54003, Title LVII,

 Government Code, to read:
 - "(j) The Director of Revenue and Taxation, or his duly authorized deputy, both of whom are hereinafter referred to as the "Director", shall administer the provisions of this Chapter on the licensure of accountants, on the issuance of certificates and permits, on budgeting matters, and on any other administrative support as

agreed to by the Board and the Director. The Director shall be an ex 1 2 officio, non-voting member of the Board." 3 Section 9. Paragraph (b) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is 4 hereby amended to read: 5 "(b) Good character for purposes of this §54004 means lack of a history of dishonest or felonious acts. The Board may refuse to 6 7 grant a certificate on the grounds of failure to satisfy this 8 requirement only if there is a substantial connection between the lack 9 of good character of the applicant and the professional 10 responsibilities of a licensee and if the finding by the Board of lack of 11 good character is supported by clear and convincing evidence. When 12 an applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of 13 lack of good character, the Board shall furnish the applicant a statement containing the findings of the Board, a complete record of 14 15 the evidence upon which the determination was based, and a notice 16 of the applicant's right of appeal." 17 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is 18 hereby repealed and reenacted to read: 19 "(c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be 20 met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination 21 prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows: 22 (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the 23 effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or its 24 equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the

Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as

determined by Board rule to be appropriate;

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(2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate."

Section 11. Paragraph (d) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:

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"(d) The examination required to be passed as a condition for the grating of a certificate shall include but not limited to the Uniform Certified Public Accountancy examination of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") (or other uniformly adopted examination of every accountancy licensing jurisdiction of the United States), shall be in writing, shall be held twice a year, and shall test the applicant's knowledge of the subjects of accounting and auditing and such other related subjects as the Board may specify by rule. The time for holding such examination shall be fixed by the Board and may be changed from time to time. The Board shall prescribe by rule the methods of applying for and conducting the examination, including methods of grading papers and determining a passing grade required of an applicant for a certificate provided, however, that the Board shall to the extent possible see to it that the grading of the examination, and the passing grades, are uniform with those applicable in all other states. The Board may make such use of all or any part of the AICPA Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and Advisory

1	Grading Service and may contact with third parties to perform such
2	administrative services with respect to the examination as it deems
3	appropriate to assist it in performing its duties hereunder."
4	Section 12. Paragraph (e) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is
5	hereby amended to read:
6	"(e) An applicant shall be required to pass all sections of the
7	examination provided for in subsection (d) in order to qualify for a
8	certificate. If at a given sitting of the examination an applicant
9	passes two or more but not all sections, then such applicant shall be
10	given credit for those sections that such applicant has passed and
11	need not sit for reexamination in those sections; provided, that
12	(1) The applicant wrote all sections of the examination at
13	that sitting;
14	(2) The applicant attained a minimum grade of 50 on each
15	section not passed at that sitting;
16	(3) The applicant passes the remaining sections of the
17	examination within six consecutive examinations given after
18	the one at which the first sections were passed;
19	(4) At each subsequent sitting at which the applicant seeks
20	to pass any additional sections, the applicant writes all sections
21	not yet passed; and
22	(5) In order to receive credit for passing additional
23	sections in any such subsequent sitting, the applicant attains a
24	minimum grade of 50 on sections written but not passed on
25	such sitting."
26	Section 13. Paragraph (f) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is

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hereby amended to read:

1 "(f) An applicant shall be given credit for any and all sections 2 of an examination passed in another state if such credit would have 3 been given, under then applicable requirements, if the applicant had 4 taken the examination in Guam. 5 Section 14. Paragraph (g) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is 6 hereby amended to read: "(g) The Board may in particular cases waive or defer any of 7 8 the requirements of subsections (e) and (f) regarding the circumstances in which the various sections of the examination must 9 be passed, upon a showing that, by reason of circumstances beyond 10 such applicant's control, such applicant was unable to meet such 11 12 requirement." 13 Section 15. Paragraph (h) of §54004, Title LVII, Government Code, is 14 hereby amended to read: 15 "(h) The Board may charge, or provide for a third party administering the examination to charge, each applicant a fee, in an 16 17 amount prescribed by the Board by rule, for each section of the 18 examination or reexamination taken by the applicant." 19 Section 16. Paragraph (b) of §54005, Title LVII, Government Code, is 20 hereby amended to read: 21 "(b) Permits shall be initially issued, and renewed, for a period 22 of one year but in any event shall expire on the last day of December 23 of each year and may be renewed annually for a period of one year 24 by certificate holders and registrants in good standing upon payment 25 of an annual renewal fee as established by the Board from time to 26 time by rule. Applications for such permits shall be made in such

form, and in the case of applications for renewal, between such

dates, as the Board shall by rule specify, the Board shall grant or deny any such application no later than sixty days after the application is filed in proper form. In any case where the applicant seeks the opportunity to show that issuance or renewal of a permit was mistakenly denied, or where the Board is not able to determine whether it should be granted or denied, the Board may issued to the applicant a provisional permit, which shall expire ninety days after its issuance or when the Board determines whether to issue or renew the permit for which application was made, whichever shall first occur."

Section 17. Paragraph (c) of §54005, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:

- "(c) An applicant for initial issuance of a permit under this §54005 shall show--
 - (1) That such applicant holds a valid certificate;
 - (2) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of the Act, that such applicant has had two years of experience in the practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule; or, if the applicant's educational qualifications comprise a baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the Board by rule to be appropriate under subsection (c) of §54004, and not less than thirty semester hours of additional study, then that such applicant has had one year of experience in such practice;
 - (3) After the expiration of the six year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, that such applicant has

had one year of experience in the practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule.

- (4) If the applicant's certificate was issued more than four years prior to application for issuance of an initial permit under this Section, that such applicant has fulfilled the requirements of continuing professional education that would have been applicable under subsection (e) of this §54005 if such applicant had secured an initial permit within four years of issuance of certificate and was now applying under subsection (e) for renewal of such permit."
- **Section 18.** Paragraph (c) of §54006, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:
 - "(c) An applicant for initial issuance or renewal of a permit to practice under this §54006 shall be required to show that each partner, officer, or shareholder who regularly works in this territory, and each employee holding a certificate who regularly works in Guam (except for employees who have not yet accumulated sufficient experience to qualify for a permit under subsection (c)(2) of §54005) holds a valid individual permit to practice issued under §54005 or the corresponding provision of prior law and that each other partner, officer, or shareholder holds a certificate and is licensed to practice public accountancy in some other state."
- **Section 19.** Paragraph (b) of §54018, Title LVII, Government Code, is hereby amended to read:
- "(b) A licensee shall furnish to each client or former client, upon request and reasonable notice -"

Section 20. §§54019, 54020, and 54021, Title LVII, Government Code, 1 are hereby renumbered §§54022, 54023, and 54024, respectively. 2 3 Section 21. A new §54019 is hereby added to Title LVII, Government 4 Code, to read: "§54019. Privity of contract. (a) This section applies to all 5 6 causes of action for the types specified herein filed on or after the 7 effective date of the enactment of this section. (b) This section governs any action based on negligence 8 brought against any accountant or firm of accountants practicing in 9 Guam by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a 10 11 result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or 12 13 opined on by the defendant accountant or in the course of an 14 engagement to provide other public accountancy services. 15 (c) No action covered by this section may be brought unless: 16 (1) the plaintiff (1) is issuer (or successor of the issuer) of 17 the financial statements or other information examined, 18 compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise report or opined on by the defendant and (2) engaged the defendant 19 20 accountant to examine, compile, review, certify, audit or 21 otherwise report or render an opinion on such financial 22 statements or to provide other public accountancy services; or 23 (2) The defendant accountant or firm: (1) was aware at 24 the time the engagement was undertaken that the financial 25 statements or other information were to be made available for 26 use in connection with a specified transaction by the plaintiff

who was specifically identified to the defendant accountant, (2)

was aware that the plaintiff intended to rely upon such financial statements or other information in connection with the specified transaction, and (3) had direct contact and communication with the plaintiff and expressed by words or conduct the defendant accountant's understanding of the reliance on such financial statements or other information." Section 22. A new §54020 is hereby added to Title LVII, Government Code, to read:

"§54020. Uniform Statute of Limitations. (a) This section applies to all causes of action of the types specified herein filed on or

after the effective date of the enactment of this section.

- (b) This section governs any action based on negligence or breach of contract brought against any accountant, any partnership of such accountants, or any accounting corporation practicing in Guam by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant accountant as a result of an engagement to provide public accountancy services.
- (c) No action covered by this section may be brought unless the suit is commenced on or before the earlier of:
 - (1) One (1) year from the date the alleged act, omission or neglect is discovered or should have been discovered by the exercise of reasonable diligence;
 - (2) Three (3) years after completion of the service for which the suit is brought has been performed; or

1 (3) Three (3) years after the date of the initial issuance of 2 the accountant's report on the financial statements or other 3 information." Section 23. A new §54021 is hereby added to Title LVII, Government 4 Code, to read: 5 6 "§54021. Proportionate liability. (a) This section applies to all causes of action of the types specified herein filed on or after the 7 8 effective date of the enactment of this section. (b) This section governs any claim for money damages brought 10 against any accountant; any partnership of accountants or any 11 accounting corporation registered, licensed or practicing in Guam; 12 or any employee or principal of such partnership or corporation by 13 any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of the 14 practice of public accountancy by the defendant accountant or other 15 person or entity. 16 (c) No judgment for money damages may be entered against 17 any accountant, partnership, corporation, employee, or principal in 18 subsection (b) (collectively referred to in this subsection as the 19 "accountant") in an action covered by this section except in 20 accordance with the provisions of this subsection. 21 (A) The trier of fact shall determine the percentage of 22 responsibility of the plaintiff, of each of the defendants, and of 23 each of the other persons or entities alleged by the parties to 24 have caused or contributed to the harm alleged by the plaintiff. 25 In determining the percentages of responsibility, the trier of

fact shall consider both the nature of the conduct of each

person and the nature and extent of the causal relationship between that conduct and the damage claimed by the plaintiff.

- (B) The trier of fact shall next determine the total amount of damage suffered by the plaintiff caused in whole or in part by the plaintiff, the defendants, and other persons alleged to have caused or contributed to the damage.
- (C) The trier of fact shall then multiply the percentage of responsibility of the accountant (determined under (A)) by the total amount of damages (determined under (B)) and shall enter a judgment or verdict against the accountant in an amount no greater than the product of those two (2) factors.
- (D) In no event shall the damages awarded against or paid by an accountant exceed the amount determined under (C). The accountant shall not be jointly liable on any judgment entered against any other party to the action.
- (E) Except where a contractual relationship permits, no defendant shall have a right to recover from an accountant any portion of the percentage of damages assessed against such other defendant."

Twenty-Second Guam Legislature

155 Hesler Street Pacific Arcade Agana, Guam 96910 Telephone: (671) 472-3407 thru 9 Fax: 477-3161



CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ Senator

Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

Vice-Chairman, Committee on Rules

Vice-Chairman, Committee on Tourism & Transportation

April 12, 1994

Honorable Speaker Joe T. San Agustin Speaker, Twenty-Second Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Street Legislative Temporary Building Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Ways & Means wishes to report out its findings on BILL NO. 501, "AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUBSECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM", to the full Legislature with the recommendation to do Pass as Substituted by the Committee on Ways & Means.

The Committee Voting Record is as follows:

TO PASS:	14
NOT TO PASS:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0
INACTIVE FILE:	0

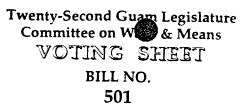
Copies of the Committee Report and all pertinent documents are attached for vour information.

Sincerely,

CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ

Chairman

Attachments



1.

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUBSECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

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Senator Herminia D. DIERKING Vice-Chairman				
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Senator Thomas C. ADA			-	
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Senator Marilyn D. A. MANIBUSAN Member			-	
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Senator Ted S. NELSON				
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Senator Vicente C. PANGELINAN				
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Senator David L.G. SHIMIZU	<u> </u>			
Member				
Senator Antonio R. UNPINGCO	1/			
Member / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	1/			
Speaker Joe T. SAN AGUSTIN				-

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT

ON

BILL NO. 501: AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUBSECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

The Committee on Ways & Means conducted a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 1994 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Legislative Public Hearing Room to gather testimony on Bill No. 501. Senator Carl T. C. Gutierrez, Chairman of the Committee conducted the hearing, being joined by Senators Ted S. Nelson, David L. G. Shimizu, and Thomas C. Ada.

TESTIMONY

Mr. Todd S. Smith, Vice-Chairperson, of the Territorial Board of Public Accountancy

Mr. Todd S. Smith submitted written testimony to Senator Herminia Dierking, sponsor of the Bill requesting that additional corrections, substitutions, deletions, and additions to the "Public Accountancy Act of 1990" be incorporated into Bill No. 501. Mr. Smith stated that these amendments will serve as a vehicle to correct any inconsistency or discrepancy in the Act.

Mr. Jesus U. Torres, Chairman, Board of Regents, University of Guam

Mr. Torres in his testimony stated that the passage of this important Bill is imperative if University of Guam graduates are to be eligible to sit for Certified Public Accountant examinations in the States.

Mr. Torres also indicated that without passage of this legislation, UOG graduates would only be eligible to take the Certified Public Accountant examination on Guam. Also, present Guam Certified Public Accountants operations would in the future be restricted only to Guam and the Micronesian Islands. Equally important, our local operations might be brought into question in dealing with mainland and international companies.

Mr. John M. Phillips, faculty member at the University of Guam teaching Accounting

Mr. Phillips submitted testimony in favor of Bill No. 501. Mr. Phillips who is a CPA is also a member of the three Accounting Associations on Guam, Association of Government Accountants (AGA), Guam Accountant's Association (GAC) and Guam Society of CPA's (GSCPA). He is also a member of the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA), American Accounting Association (AAA), and the Institute of Management Accountant's (IMA), and the UOG Faculty Advisor to the UOG Accounting Club.

Mr. Phillips stated that the AICPA initiated the 150 credit hour requirement. The change in the law is worded as stated in the AICP's Model Accountancy Bill. All of the "Big Six" accounting organizations have endorsed the requirement.

Also the practice of professional accountancy requires the additional college credits in order to provide the future accountants with sufficient knowledge to enter their chosen profession. The promulgation by authoritative bodies of changes/additions to accounting principles in constant.

Mr. Phillips also indicated that thirty plus states have already passed the requirement that by the year 2000, in order to sit for the CPA examination one must have completed 150 hours of college credit with a concentration in accounting. This means that if the University of Guam does not implement a Masters Program in Accounting, UOG graduates will not be eligible to move from Guam as accountants. The potential to pass (or even be eligible to sit for) the CPA exam is doubtful. Currently 1/3 of UOG's accounting graduates leave the island. Of the remaining accounting graduates 30+ percent receive CPA Certificates on Guam.

UOG students need to have this bill passed in order to implement a Masters Degree in Accounting. All future professional accountants need the Masters Degree in order to be recognized nationally as a CPA. UOG needs this bill passed in order to justify a Master's in Accounting Degree. This means that the first graduates could be in 1998 if Bill 501 is immediately enacted. Any delay's will push the first graduates into 1999 or 2000. Since most students require at least two or three attempts to pass the examination some students could be required to go back to school in order to complete the examination. For the benefit of the students please pass this legislation NOW!!

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Ways & Means, after due consideration of the testimony offered in support of Bill No. 501, recommends that the Bill be reported out to the full Legislature to do Pass as Substituted by the Committee.

TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1993 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. <u>501 (LS)</u>

As Substituted by the Committee on Ways & Means

Introduced by:

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(d)."

AN ACT TO AMEND §54002 (d), (f), AND (h); TO ADD A NEW §54002 (e), TO RENUMBER §54002 (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), AND (j), TO (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), AND (k) RESPECTIVELY; TO AMEND §54003 (a), (h), AND (j), §54004 (b), (d) AND (e); TO REPEAL AND REENACT §54004 (c); TO AMEND §54005 (b) AND (c), §54006 (c), AND §54018 (b); TO RENUMBER §\$54019, 54020, AND 54021 TO §\$54022, 54023, AND 54024 RESPECTIVELY; AND TO ADD A NEW §\$54019, 54020, AND 54021 TO CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE LVII OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM RELATIVE TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY ACT OF GUAM.

H. D. Dierking

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: (a) §54002 (d) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code Section 1. ુ of Guam is hereby amended to read: [Licensee] License means [the holder of] a certificate issued 4 ''(d)under §54004 of this Chapter, or [of] a permit issued under §54005 or 5 54006; or in each case a certificate or permit issued under corresponding 6 7 provisions or prior law." 8 (b) A new §54002 (e) is hereby added to Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the 9 Government Code to read:

"(e) Licensee means a holder of a license as defined in §54002

i	(c) §54002 (e) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is
2	hereby renumbered (f):
3	"[(e)] (f) Permit means a permit to practice public accountancy
4	issued under §§54005 and 54006 of this Chapter or corresponding
5	provisions of prior law or under corresponding provisions of the laws
6	of other states."
7	(d) §54002 (f) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is
8	hereby amended to read:
9	"[f] (g) Practice of, or practicing public accountancy means the
10	performance or the offering to perform by a person or firm holding of
1 1	one or more kinds of services involving the use of accounting or
1 2	auditing skills, including the issuance of reports on financial
1 3	statements or of one or more kinds of management advisory, financial
1 4	advisory, or consulting service, or the preparation of tax returns or the
15	furnishing of advice on tax matters."
16	(e) §54002 (g) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is
1 7	hereby renumbered (h).
18	(f) §54002 (h) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is
19	hereby amended to read:
20	"[(h)] (i) Report, when used with reference to financial
2 1	statements, means an opinion, report, or other form of language that
22	states or implies assurance as to the reliability of any financial
23	statements and that also includes or is accompanied by any statement
2 4	or implication that the person or firm issuing it has special knowledge
25	or competence in accounting or auditing. Such a statement of
26	implication [of] or special knowledge or competency may arise from
27	use by the issuer of the report of names or titles indicating that he or it

is an accountant or auditor, or from the language of the report itself. The term report includes any form of language which disclaims an opinion when such form of language is conventionally understood to imply any positive assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements referred to or special competence on the part of the person or firm issuing such language; and it includes any other form of language that is conventionally understood to imply such assurance or such special knowledge or competence."

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- 9 (g) §54002 (i) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is 10 hereby renumbered to (j).
- 1 1 (h) §54002 (j) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is 1 2 hereby renumbered to (k).
- Section 2. (a) §54003 (a) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code is hereby amended to read:
 - "(a) There is hereby created the Guam Board of Accountancy, which shall have responsibility for the administration and enforcement of this Chapter. The Board shall consist of five members, appointed by the Governor, all of whom shall be residents of Guam and holders of certificates currently valid under §54004 of this Chapter. At least a majority plus one of such members shall be holders of currently valid permits issued under §54005 of this Chapter or corresponding provisions of prior law. The term of each member of the Board shall be four years. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of a member's term of office, such member shall continue to serve until successor shall have been appointed and taken office. Any member of the Board whose [permit] certificate under

1	§54004 of this Chapter is revoked or suspended shall automatically
2	cease to be a member of the Board, and the Governor may, after a
3	hearing pursuant to the Administration Adjudication Law, remove
4	any member of the Board for neglect of duty or other cause."
5	(b) §54003 (h) (5) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of
6	Guam is hereby amended to read:
7	"(h) (5) Rules specifying actions and circumstances that shall be
8	deemed to constitute holding oneself out as a licensee in connection
9	with the practice of public accountancy within the meaning of
10	subsection [(g)] <u>(f)</u> of §54002.
1 1	(c) A new §54003 (j) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government
1 2	Code of Guam is hereby added to read:
1 3	"(j) The Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation,
1 4	or his duly authorized deputy, both of whom are hereinafter referred to
1.5	as the "Director," shall administer the provisions of this Chapter
16	relating to the actual licensing of accountants, issuing certificates and
17	permits, budgeting matters, and any other administrative support as
18	agreed to by the Board and the Director. The Director shall be an ex-
19	officio, non-voting member of the Board."
2 ()	Section 3. (a) §54004 (b) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government
21	Code of Guam is hereby amended to read:
22	"(b) Good character for purposes of this §54004 means lack of a
23	history of dishonest or felonious acts. The Board may refuse to grant a
24	certificate on the grounds of failure to satisfy this requirement only if
25	there is a substantial connection between the lack of good character of
26	the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a licensee and if
27	the finding by the Board of lack of good character is supported by clear

and convincing evidence. When an applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of lack of good character, the Board shall furnish the applicant a statement containing the findings of the Board, a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based, and a notice of the applicant's right of appeal."

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- (b) §54004 (c) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:
 - "(c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows:
 - (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate;
 - (2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate."
- 26 (c) §54004 (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read:

The examination required to be passed as a condition for the grating of a certificate shall include but not limited to the Uniform Certified Public Accountancy examination of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") (or other uniformly adopted examination of every accountancy licensing jurisdiction of the United States), shall be in writing, shall be held twice a year, and shall test the applicant's knowledge of the subjects of accounting [theory, accounting practice,] and auditing and such other related subjects as the Board may The time for holding such examination shall be fixed by the Board and may be changed from time to time. The Board shall prescribe by rule the methods of applying for and conducting the examination, including methods of grading papers and determining a passing grade required of an applicant for a certificate provided, however, that the Board shall to the extent possible see to it that the grading of the examination, and the passing grades, are uniform with those applicable in all other states. The Board may make such use of all or any part of the AICPA Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and Advisory Grading Service and may contract with third parties to perform such administrative services with respect to the examination as it deems appropriate to assist it in performing its duties hereunder.

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(e) An applicant shall be required to pass all [parts] sections of the examination provided for in subsection (d) in order to qualify for a certificate. If at a given sitting of the examination an applicant passes two or more but not all [parts (with the accounting practice part of the examination being treated for this purpose as two parts)] sections, then such applicant shall be given credit for those [parts] sections that such

1 applicant has passed and need not sit for reexamination in those [parts] 2 sections: provided, that - -3 The applicant wrote all [parts] sections of the examination (1) 4 at that sitting; 5 (2) The applicant attained a minimum grade of 50 on each 6 [part] section not passed at that sitting; 7 (3) The applicant passes the remaining [parts] sections of the 8 examination within six consecutive examinations given 9 after the one at which the first [parts] sections were passed; 10 At each subsequent sitting at which the applicant seeks to 1 1 pass any additional [parts] sections, the applicant writes all 12 [parts] sections not yet passed; and 1 3 In order to receive credit for passing additional [parts] 14 sections in any such subsequent sitting, the applicant 1.5 attains a minimum grade of 50 on [parts] sections written 1.6 but not passed on such sitting." 17 (f) An applicant shall be given credit for any and all [parts] 1.8 sections of an examination passed in another state if such credit would have been given, under then applicable requirements, if the applicant 19 2.0 had taken the examination in GUAM. 2.1 The Board may in particular cases waive or defer any of the 2.2 requirements of subsections (e) and (f) regarding the circumstances in 2.3 which the various [parts] sections of the examination must be passed, 24 upon a showing that, by reason of circumstances beyond such 2.5 applicant's control, such applicant was unable to meet such 26

requirement.

(h) The Board may charge, or provide for a third party administering the examination to charge, each applicant a fee, in an amount prescribed by the Board by rule, for each **[part]** section of the examination or reexamination taken by the applicant."

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Section 4. §54005 (b) and (c) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read:

- Permits shall be initially issued, and renewed, for a period of one year but in any event 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)] as established by the Board from time to time by rule. Applications for such permits shall be made in such form, and in the case of applications for renewal, between such dates, as the Board shall by rule specify, the Board shall grant or deny any such application no later than sixty days after the application is filed in proper form. In any case where the applicant seeks the opportunity to show that issuance or renewal of a permit was mistakenly denied, or where the Board is not able to determine whether it should be granted or denied, the Board may issue to the applicant a provisional permit, which shall expire ninety days after its issuance or when the Board determines whether to issue or renew the permit for which application was made, whichever shall first occur.
- (c) An applicant for initial issuance of a permit under this §54005 shall show -
 - That such applicant holds a valid certificate;

During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of the Act, [T] that such applicant has had two years of experience in the practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule; or, if the applicant's educational qualifications comprise a baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the Board by rule to be appropriate under subsection (c) of §54004, and not less than thirty semester hours of additional study, then that such applicant has had one year of experience in such practice;

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- (3) After the expiration of the six year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, that such applicant has had one year of experience in the practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule.
- [(3)] (4) If the applicant's certificate was issued more than four years prior to application for issuance of an initial permit under this Section, that such applicant has fulfilled the requirements of continuing professional education that would have been applicable under subsection (e) of this §54005 if such applicant had secured an initial permit within four years of issuance of certificate and was now applying under subsection (e) for renewal of such permit."

Section 5. §54006 (c) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read:

"(c) An applicant for initial issuance or renewal of a permit to practice under this §54006 shall be required to show that each partner, officer, or shareholder who regularly works in this Territory, and each employee holding a certificate who regularly works in Guam (except for employees who have not year accumulated sufficient experience to qualify for a permit under subsection (c) (2) of §54005) holds a valid individual permit to practice issued under §54005 or the corresponding provision of prior law and that each other partner, officer, or shareholder holds a certificate and is licensed to practice public accountancy in some other state."

Section 6. §54018 (b) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Co

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Section 6. §54018 (b) of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby amended to read:

- 13 "(b) A licensee shall furnish to [earn] each client or former client, upon request and reasonable notice -"
- Section 7. §§54019, 54020, and 54021 of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby renumbered to §§54022, 54023, and 54024 respectively.
 - Section 8. A new §54019 of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby added to read:
- 20 "§54019. Privity of Contract. (a) This Section applies to all causes of action for the type specified herein filed on or after the effective date.
 - (b) This Section governs any action based on negligence brought against any accountant or firm of accountants practicing in the Territory by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined

on by the defendant accountant or in the course of an engagement to provide other public accountancy services.

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- (c) No action covered by this Section may be brought unless:
 - of the financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant and (2) engaged the defendant accountant to examine, compile, review, certify, audit or otherwise report or render an opinion on such financial statements or to provide other public accountancy services; or
 - The defendant accountant or firm: (1) was aware at the time the engagement was undertaken that the financial statements or other information were to be made available for use in connection with a specified transaction by the plaintiff who was specifically identified to the defendant accountant, (2) was aware that the plaintiff intended to rely upon such financial statements or other information in connection with the specified transaction, and (3) had direct contact and communication with the plaintiff and expressed by words or conduct the defendant accountant's understanding of the reliance on such financial statements or other information."

Section 9. A new §54020 of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Code of Guam is hereby added to read:

1	"§54020. Uniform Statute of Limitations. (a) This Section
2	applies to all causes of action of the type specified herein filed on or
3	after the effective date.
4	(b) This Section governs any action based on negligence or
5	breach of contract brought against any accountant, any partnership of
6	such accountants, or any accounting corporation practicing in the
7	Territory by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a
8	result of financial statements or other information examined,
9	compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined
10	on by the defendant accountant as a result of an engagement to provide
1 1	public accountancy services.
1 2	(c) No action covered by this Section may be brought unless
1 3	the suit is commenced on or before the earlier of:
1 4	(1) one year from the date the alleged act, omission or
15	neglect is discovered or should have been discovered
16	by the exercise of reasonable diligence;
1 7	(2) three years after completion of the service for which
18	the suit is brought has been performed; or
19	(3) three years after the date of the initial issuance of the
20	accountant's report on the financial statements or
2 1	other information."
22	Section 10. A new §54021 of Chapter 1 of Title LVII of the Government Cod
23	of Guam is hereby added to read:
2 4	"§54021. Proportionate Liability. (a) This Section applies to
2 5	all causes of action of the type specified herein filed on or after the
26	effective date.

(b) This Section governs any claim for money damages brought against any accountant; any partnership of accountants or any accounting corporation registered, licensed or practicing in this Territory; or any employee or principal of such partnership or corporation by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of the practice of public accountancy by the defendant accountant or other person or entity.

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- (c) No judgment for money damages may be entered against any accountant, partnership, corporation, employee, or principal in subsection (b) (collectively referred to in this subsection as the "accountant") in an action covered by this Section except in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.
 - (A) The trier of fact shall determine the percentage of responsibility of the plaintiff, of each of the defendants, and of each of the other persons or entities alleged by the parties to have caused or contributed to the harm alleged by the plaintiff. In determining the percentages of responsibility, the trier of fact shall consider both the nature of the conduct of each person and the nature and extent of the causal relationship between that conduct and the damage claimed by the plaintiff.
 - (B) The trier of fact shall next determine the total amount of damage suffered by the plaintiff caused in whole or in part by the plaintiff, the defendants, and other persons alleged to have caused or contributed to the damage.

- (C) The trier of fact shall then multiply the percentage of responsibility of the accountant (determined under (A)) by the total amount of damages (determined under (B)) and shall enter a judgment or verdict against the accountant in an amount no greater than the product of those two factors.
- (D) In no event shall the damages awarded against or paid by an accountant exceed the amount determined under(C). The accountant shall not be jointly liable on any judgment entered against any other party to the action.
- (E) Except where a contractual relationship permits, no defendant shall have a right to recover from an accountant any portion of the percentage of damages assessed against such other defendant."

JUN 2'93

*TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1993 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. <u>501 (LS)</u> Introduced By:

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H. D. Dierking

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUB-SECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: Section 1. Chapter 1 Title LVII, Paragraph (C) of Sub-section 54004 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

- (c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows:
 - (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or it's equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate;
 - (2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate.





22nd GUAM LEGISLATURE

February 16, 1994

Committees:

CHAIRPERSON:

Rules

VICE CHAIRPERSON:

Ways & Means

MEMBER:

Economic-Agricultural Development, and Insurance

Education

Electrical Power and Consumer Protection

Federal and Foreign Affairs

General Governmental Operations and Micronesian Affairs

> Health, Ecology and Welfare

Judiciary and Criminal Justice

Tourism and Transportation

Youth, Senior Citizens and Cultural Affairs

MEMORANDUM

To:

Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means

mm /s

From:

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject:

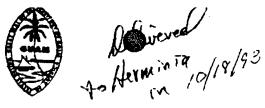
Request for Public Hearing on Bill 501

I am requesting that a public hearing on Bill 501 "AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII(C.) OF SUB-SECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM," which was referred to your Committee on July 8, 1993, be scheduled as soon as possible.

Mr. Todd S. Smith, Vice-Chairperson, of the Territorial Board of Public Accountancy, has requested that additional corrections, substitutions, deletions, and additions to the "Public Accountancy Act of 1990" be incorporated into Bill 501. These amendments will serve as a vehicle to correct any inconsistency or discrepancy in the Public Accountancy Act of 1990. I have attached the request from Mr. Smith for your perusal.

Should you require further information, please call me.

HERMINIA D. DIERKING



TERRITORIAL BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Territory of Guam
P. O. Box P
Agana, Guam 96910

C ober 12, 1993

Senator Hermenia Dierking
TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE

Dear Senator Dierking:

On behalf of the Territorial Board of Accountancy and with the concurrence of the Guam Society of CPA's we would like to request the attached corrections, substitutions, deletions, and additions to the "Public Accountancy Act of 1990" (Chapter 1 Title LVII, Government Code of Guam) be considered in one bill, perhaps as an amendment to Bill No. 501 which you have introduced. Any further information, background, explanations or other documentation which you need on these requested amendments will be provided upon request.

Very truly yours,

Todd S. Smith Vice-Chairperson

Amendments and Additions to Cha er 1 Title LVII, Governme Code of Guam Public Accountancy Act of 1990

\$54002 Paragraph (d) (line 11)

- Change to define license:
 - (d) "Middle means the Middle a certificate issued under \$54004 of this Chapter, or EM a permit issued under \$54005 or 54006; or in each case a certificate or permit issued under corresponding provisions or prior law.

\$54002 Paragraph (e)

- . New paragraph (e) defining "Licensee":
 - (e) "Licensee" means a holder of a license as defined in §54002 (d).

\$54002 Paragraph (f) '

. Add the words financial advisory:

(f) "Practice of, or practicing public accountancy" means the performance or the offering to perform by a person or firm holding itself out to the public as a licensee, for a client or potential client, or one or more kinds of services involving the use of accounting or auditing skills, including the issuance of reports on the financial statements or of one or more kinds of management advisory, financial advisory, or consulting service, or the preparation of tax returns or the furnishing of advice on tax matters.

\$54002 Paragraph (h) (line 5)

. Technical correction:

...any statement or implication that the person or firm issuing it has special knowledge or competence in accounting or auditing. Such a statement of or implication but special knowledge or competency may arise from use by the issuer of the report of names or titles...

\$54002 Paragraphs (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j)
Change to (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) respectively.

\$54003 Paragraph (a) (line 33)

. Substitute the word "certificate for the word "permit - a technical correction:

\$54003. Guam Board of Accountancy.

There is hereby created the Guam Board of (a) Accountancy, which shall have responsibility for the administration and enforcement of this Chapter. Board shall consist of five members, appointed by the governor, all of whom shall be residents of Guam and holders of certificates currently valid under \$54005 of this Chapter. At least a majority plus one of such members shall be holders of currently valid permits issued under \$54005 of this Chapter or corresponding provisions of prior law. The term of each member of the Board shall be four years. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of a member's term of office, such member shall continue to serve until successor shall have been appointed and taken office. Any member of the Board certificate
whose **TAXBATX** under \$54004 of this chapter is revoked shall automatically cease to be a member of the

\$54003 Paragraph (h)(5) - (line 16)

- . Substitute the letter "(f)" for the letter "(g)" a technical correction:
 - (5) Rules specifying actions and circumstances that shall be deemed to constitute holding oneself out as a licensee in connection with the practice of public accountancy within the meaning of subsection (5) of \$54002;

§54003 Paragraph (j)

- . Add new paragraph (j) with wording as follows:
 - (j) The Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, or his duly authorized deputy, both of whom are hereinafter referred to as the "Director," shall administer the provisions of this Chapter relating to the actual licensing of accountants, issuing certificates and permits, budgeting matters, and any other administrative support as agreed to by the Board and the Director. The Director shall be an ex-offico, non-voting member of the Board.

§54004 Paragraph (b) - (line 3)

. Add the following underlined wording - a technical correction:

(b) Good character for purposes of this \$54004 means lack of a history of dishonest or felonious acts. The Board may refuse to grant certificate on the grounds of failure to satisfy this requirement only if there is a substantial connection between the lack of good character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a licensee and if the finding by the Board of lack of good character is supported by clear and convincing evidence. When an applicant is found to be unqualified for a certificate because of lack of good character, the Board shall furnish the applicant a statement containing the findings of the Board, a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based, and a notice of the applicant's right of appeal.

\$54004 Paragraph (c)

- . Repeal paragraph (c) and substitute the following already introduced as Bill No. 501:
 - (c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows:

- (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or it's equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate;
- (2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate.

\$54004 (d) (lines 22 and 23)

- . Change wording to more accurately reflect contents of CPA exam
 - technical correction:

§54004 (e) (lines 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23), (f) (line 24), (g) (line 30) and (h) (line 1)

. Change wording to reflect contents of CPA exam and change the words part and parts to section and sections respectively - technical correction:

(e) An applicant shall be required to pass all sections passes the examination provided for in subsection (d) in order to qualify for a certificate. If at a given sitting of the examination an applicant passes two or more but not all passes two applicant passes two or more but not all passes two passes two passes that such applicant shall be given credit for those passes that such applicant passed and need not sit for reexamination in those passes; provided that --

- (1) The applicant wrote all sections of the examination at that sitting;
- (2) the applicant attained a minimum grade of section 50 on each past not passed at that sitting;
- of the examination within six consecutive examinations given after the one at which the first sections were passed.
- (4) At each subsequent sitting at which the sections applicant seeks to pass any additional parts, the applicant writes all parts not yet passed; and

- (f) An applicant shall be given credit for any and sections all parts of an examination passed in another state if such credit would have been given, under then applicable requirements, if the applicant had taken the examination in GUAM.
- (g) The Board may in particular cases waive or defer any of the requirements of subsections (e) and (f) regarding the circumstances in which the various sections farmer of the examination must be passed, upon a control, such applicant was unable to meet such requirement.
- (h) The Board may charge, or provide for a third party administering the examination to charge, each applicant a fee, in an amount prescribed by the Board by, for each part of the examination or reexamination taken by the applicant.

§54005 Paragraph (b) - (line 15)

. Substitute words to be consistent with \$54005 (f) - technical correction:

Permits shall be initially issued, and renewed, for a period of one year but in any event 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 as established by the upon payment of an annual renewal fee Board from time to time by rule Applications for such permits shall be made in such form, and in the case of applications for renewal, between such dates, as the Board shall by rule specify, the Board shall grant or deny any such application no later than sixty days after the application is filed in proper form. case where the applicant seeks the opportunity to show that issuance or renewal of a permit was mistakenly denied, or where the Board is not able to determine whether it should be granted or denied, the Board may issue to the applicant a provisional permit, which shall expire ninety days after its issuance or when the Board determines whether to issue or renew the permit for which application was made, whichever shall first occur.

\$54005 Paragraph (c)(2) - (line 30)

. Change experience requirement from 2 years to one year and delete reference to 30 additional hours:

- (c) An applicant for initial issuance of a permit under this \$54005 shall show--
 - (1) That such applicant holds a valid certificate;
 - the effective date of the Act. That such applicant has had two years of experience in the Practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule; or, if the applicant's educational qualifications comprise a baccalaureate degree with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the Board by rule to be appropriate under subsection (c) of \$54005, and mot less than thirty semester hours of additional study, then that such applicant has had one year of experience in such practice;
 - immediately following the effective date of this Act, that such applicant has had one year of experience in the practice of public accountancy, meeting requirements prescribed by the Board by rule.
 - (3) If the applicant's certificate was issued more than four years prior to application for issuance of an initial permit under this Section, that such applicant has fulfilled the requirements of

been applicable under subsection (e) of the \$54005 if such applicant had secured an initial permit within four years of issuance of certificate and was now applying under subsection (e) for renewal of such permit.

§54006 Paragraph (c) - (line 29)

- . Technical correction punctuation
 - (c) An applicant for initial issuance or renewal of a permit to practice under this \$54006 shall be required to show that each partner, officer, or shareholder who regularly works in this Territory, and each employee holding a certificate who regularly works in Guam (except for employees who have not yet accumulated sufficient experience to qualify for a permit under subsection (c)(2) of \$54005) holds a valid individual permit to practice issued under \$54005 or the corresponding provision of prior law and that each other partner, officer, or shareholder holds a certificate and is licensed to practice public accountancy in some other state.

- . Typographical error correction:
 - (b) A licensee shall furnish to NECE client or former client, upon request and reasonable notice--

\$54019, 54020 and 54021 - change to \$54022, 54023 and 54024 respectively - to renumber add new sections

§54019 - New section

. To add privity of contract

§54019 Privity of Contract

- (a) This Section applies to all causes of action of the type specified herein filed on or after the effective date.
- (b) This Section governs any action based on negligence brought against any accountant or firm of accountants practicing in the Territory by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant accountant or in the course of an engagement to provide other public accountancy services.

- (c) No a ion covered by this Secon may be brought unless:
 - (1) The plaintiff (1) is issuer (or successor of the issuer) of the financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant and (2) engaged the defendant accountant to examine, compile, review, certify, audit or otherwise report or render an opinion on such financial statements or to provide other public accountancy services; or
 - (2) The defendant accountant or firm: (1) was aware at the time the engagement was undertaken that the financial statements or other information were to be made available for use in connection with a specified transaction by the plaintiff who was specifically identified to the defendant accountant, (2) was aware that the plaintiff intended to rely upon such financial statements or other information in connection with the specified transaction, and (3) had

plaintiff and expressed by words or conduct the defendant accountant's understanding of the reliance on such financial statements or other information.

\$54020 - New paragraph

. To add statute of limitations:

§54020 Uniform Statute of Limitations

- (a) This Section applies to all causes of action of the type specified herein filed on or after the effective date.
- (b) This Section governs any action based on negligence or breach of contract brought against any accountant, any partnership of such accountants, or any accounting corporation practicing in the Territory by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant accountant as a result of an engagement to provide public accountancy services.

- (c) No action covered by this Section may be brought unless the suit is commenced on or before the earlier of:
 - (1) one year from the date the alleged act, omission or neglect is discovered or should have been discovered by the exercise of reasonable diligence;
 - (2) three years after completion of the service for which the suit is brought has been performed; or
 - (3) three years after the date of the initial issuance of the accountant's report on the financial statements or other information.

§54021 - New paragraph

. To add proportionate liability

§54021 - Proportionate Liability

- (a) This Section applies to all causes of action of the type specified herein filed on or after the effective date.
- (b) This Section governs any claim for money damages brought against any accountant; any partnership of accountants or any accounting corporation

registered, licensed or practicing in this Territory; or any employee or principal of such partnership or corporation by any person or entity claiming to have been injured as a result of the practice of public accountancy by the defendant accountant or other person or entity.

- (c) No judgment for money damages may be entered against any accountant, partnership, corporation, employee, or principal in subsection (b) (collectively referred to in this subsection as the "accountant") in an action covered by this Section except in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.
 - (A) The trier of fact shall determine the percentage of responsibility of the plaintiff, of each of the defendants, and of each of the other persons or entities alleged by the parties to have caused or contributed to the harm alleged by the plaintiff. In determining the percentages of responsibility, the trier of fact shall consider both the nature of the conduct of each person and the nature and extent of the causal relationship between that conduct and the damage claimed by the plaintiff.

- (B) The trier of fact shall ext determine the total amount of damage suffered by the plaintiff caused in whole or in part by the plaintiff, the defendants, and other persons alleged to have caused or contributed to the damage.
- (C) The trier of fact shall then multiply the percentage of responsibility of the accountant (determined under (A)) by the total amount of damages (determined under (B)) and shall enter a judgment or verdict against the accountant in an amount no greater than the product of those two factors.
- (D) In no event shall the damages awarded against or paid by an accountant exceed the amount determined under (C). The accountant shall not be jointly liable on any judgment entered against any other party to the action.
- (E) Except where a contractual relationship permits, no defendant shall have a right to recover from an accountant any portion of the percentage of damages assessed against such other defendant.

TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1993 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. <u>501 (LS)</u> Introduced By:

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H. D. Dierking

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUB-SECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:

Section 1. Chapter 1 Title LVII, Paragraph (C) of Sub-section

54004 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

- (c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows:
 - (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or it's equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate;
 - (2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate.

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BOARD OF REGENTS

UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923 Telephone: (671) 734-2177 Fax: (671) 734-3118

February 25, 1994

The Honorable Carl T. C. Guiterrez Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means Twenty-second Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Street Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Guitierrez:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the University of Guam in support of Bill 501.

Passage of this important bill is imperative if University of Guam graduates are to be eligible to sit for Certified Public Accountant examinations in the States.

Without passage of this legislation, UOG graduates would only be eligible to take the Certified Public Accountant examination on Guam. Also, present Guam Certified Public Accountants operations would in the future be restricted only to Guam and the Micronesian Islands.

Equally important, our local operations might be brought into question in dealing with mainland and international companies.

Sincerely,

Chairman

Mv Name is John M Phillips a domicile of Guam and a voting resident of Santa Rita. I am employed as a faculty member at the University of Guam teaching Accounting. I am a CPA and a member of the three Accounting Associations on Guam. Association of Government Accountants (AGA), Guam Accountant's Association (GAC) and Guam Society of CPA's (GSCPA). I am also a member of the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA), American Accounting Association (AAA), and the Institute of Management Accountant's (IMA), and the UOG Faculty Advisor to the UOG Accounting Club.

The AICPA initiated the 150 credit hour requirement. The change in the law is worded as stated in the AICPA's Model Accountancy Bill. All of the "Big Six" accounting organizations have endorsed the requirement.

The practice of professional accountancy requires the additional college credits in order to provide the future accountants with sufficient knowledge to enter their chosen profession. The promulgation by authoritative bodies of changes/additions to accounting principles is constant.

Thirty plus states have already passed the requirement that by the vear 2000, in order to sit for the CPA examination one must have completed 150 hours of college credit with a concentration in accounting. This means that if the University of Guam does not implement a Masters Program in Accounting, UOG graduates will not be eligible to move from Guam as accountants. The potential to pass (or even be eligible to sit for) the CPA exam is doubtful. Currently 1/3 of UOG's accounting graduates leave the island. Of the remaining accounting graduates 30+ percent receive CPA Certificates on Guam.

The petitions in favor of BILL 501 were not circulated at the University till after 5PM Thursday. The Accounting Club had a meeting Thursday night and endorsed the concept by signing the petition. The AGA has endorsed the bill. No one at the GSCPA meetings has expressed opposition. UOG students need to have this bill passed in order to implement a Masters Degree in Accounting. All future professional accountants need the Masters Degree in order to be recognized nationally as a CPA. UOG needs this bill passed in order to justify a Master's in Accounting Degree. It will take two years to implement the Master's Degree. This means that the first graduates could be in 1998 IF Bill 501 is immediately enacted. Any delay's will push the first graduates into 1999 or 2000. Since most students require at least two or three attempts to pass the examination some students could be required to go back to school in order to complete the examination. For the benefit of the students please pass this regislation NOW! 1

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NAME (Sign and Print)	IDENTIFICATION Date of Birth or SS No. or CI No.	MAILING ADDRESS	Date of Signature	
1. CHRISTINE YEAG	14/26/62 586-00-4403	100 03068 Guy Gugega	3/24/94.	
2. Kalt Romania	10/2169	BOX 27247	2/24/94	
3. Nacrai Lujan	D c.B ce/3/70	CIMF C-U 96921 V.L.B. 4105 Agama, Gil	112 24 94	
4. F & Cisca Confres		1 10000	0-124/94	
5. Robert P. Annejo Robert P. Annejo	07-13-67 586-66-7164	174 Adela Lane Dede do, Guam	02-24-94	
Emen C. Marie	586 78 2653	P.O. BOX 26614 6MF	2/24/94	
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8.F. M. CANTORIA	575-54-9104	CRPA. NOG Sta. Mag	1×1/94	
9. Mary M. Perez Mary M. Perez	586-68-9024	UOG - CBPA UOG Sta. Mongilas GU 2	923	
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Date of **IDENTIFICATION** Signature NAME Date of Birth MAILING ADDRESS (sign and Print) or SS No. or CI No. P.O. BAX 3206 586-68-8620 Agana, Gu 96910 2/25/94 11: 186-20-1140 CENT A. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 18. 19. 20.

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NAME (Sign and Print)	IDENTIFICATION Date of Birth or SS No. or CI No.	MAILING ADDRESS	Date of Signature
1. JOANNE H. ARCE	580 78 8345	PO BOX 2459 AGANA, GU 96910	424/94
2. Aussa A. Agunn ALYSSA A. AGUON	586-80-7206	P.O. BOX 10077 CINATANA, GNI 9692	2/24/94
3. Akjalinis Limualon Galerdez	- 586.70 -985c	PC PXX 26142 GNIF, GILIGEG21	2/24/94
4. Simultine E. BURGOS	586-78-781s	P.O. BIX 27178 GMF GU 96921	2/24/94
SPERT J. CANOS	586-09-4142	P.O. BOX 22026 GAF, QUAIN 96927	2/24/94
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NAME (Sign and Print)	IDENTIFICATION Date of Birth	MAII INC ADDRESS	Date of Signature	
	or SS No. or CI No.	MAILING ADDRESS		
1. Angie Sharma	586740510	P.O. 130 X24825	2/24/94	
Charle Sharna		GMF, Qu 96921		
2. FMI KONDO	(56-746159	P.OBOX 3247	2/24/94	
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5. Karen L. Alfelor		205 E. Santa	2/24/94	
Knen L. ayılar	586-72-3074	Borbara AVE. Dededo, Guam 96913		
6. Jennyerfirm Clarox	Esicsi-usal	129 Elyck Lather Highs-	2/24/94	
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7. HUONG T. GUACH	-01 7/ 1/7	7.0. HOX 6925	02/24/94	
Chatri taget thing	J86-74-1670	7AM., CM. 96931	,	
8. Michael B C. Sablan	546-75-6595	Ste A#504 257 Mepa St	2/24/04	
MASIEH		Dededo, 60 96412		
9. JANUS SHIMIZY	586-72-1843	8.0.80x 76/	PEB 24, 1994	
Q Shins		AGANA, GU 96910	,,	

NAME (sign and Print)	IDENTIFICATION Date of Birth or SS No. or CI No.	MAILING ADDRESS	Date of Signature
10 Lillian Changualof	586-05-6171	P.O. BOK 2346 Again, Gu 940	2/25/94
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810 GCIC Building 414 W. Soledad Avenue Agana, Guam 96910 Telephone: (671) 477-9041/2 Facsimile: (671) 477-3334

February 28, 1994

Senator Carl Gutierrez Chairman Committee on Ways and Means Twenty-Second Guam Legislature

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF BILL NO. 501

Dear Senator Gutierrez:

My name is Todd S. Smith. I am Managing Partner of Deloitte & Touche (Guam and Micronesia). I also serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Guam Board of Accountancy. I am submitting this testimony on Bill No. 501 representing both my firm and the Guam Board of Accountancy.

We are in favor of Bill No. 501. Enactment of the bill will bring the Guam Public Accountancy Law up to date with similar legislation passed in more than twenty accountancy licensing jurisdictions in the United States. It will also establish the 150 hour education requirement for certification in concert with the American Institute of CPA's membership requirement of 150 hours of education after the year 2000.

I apologize for not being able to testify on this matter in person.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss them with you at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Todd S. Smith

Managing Partner

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International

3.01-94 CML

TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY SIGN-IN ROSTER BILL NO. 501:

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C) OF SUBSECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

NAME OF WITNE (Please print clear)	<i>y</i>)	STATEMENT (Written or Oral)		TIMONY heck one) AGAINST
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JUN 2'93

`TWENTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE 1993 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 501 (LS) Introduced By:

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H. D. Dierking

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 1 TITLE LVII (C.) OF SUB-SECTION 54004 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: Section 1. Chapter 1 Title LVII, Paragraph (C) of Sub-section 54004 of the Government Code of Guam is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

- (c) The education requirement for a certificate, which must be met before an applicant is eligible to apply for the examination prescribed in subsection (d), shall be as follows:
 - (1) During the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, a baccalaureate degree or it's equivalent conferred by a college or university acceptable to the Board, with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate;
 - (2) After the expiration of the 6 year period immediately following the effective date of this Act, at least 150 semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by Board rule to be appropriate.