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IN ASSEMBLY

May 22, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, the business corporation law, the partnership law and the limited liability company law, in relation to certified public accountants

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 7408 of the education law, as amended by chapter 651 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

3 A. No firm shall use the words "certified public accountant" or 5 "certified public accountants" or the letters "CPA" or "CPAs" in connection with its name unless the sole proprietor of such firm or each partner of a partnership or limited liability partnership, member of a limited liability company or shareholder of a professional service corporation engaged within the United States in the practice of public 9 accountancy is in good standing as a certified public accountant of 10 11 more of the states of the United States. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW, AN APPLICANT FOR INITIAL ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A 12 13 FIRM PERMIT TO PRACTICE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW (1) A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE FIRM, IN TERMS OF FINAN-14 15 CIAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING OWNERSHIP-BASED COMPENSATION, AND VOTING FIRM'S OWNERS, BELONGS TO INDIVIDUALS LICENSED TO 16 RIGHTS HELD BY THEPRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY IN SOME STATE, AND (2) THAT ALL PARTNERS OF 17 18 PARTNERSHIP OR LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP, OR MEMBERS OF A LIMITED 19 LIABILITY COMPANY, OR SHAREHOLDERS OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION 20 WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE, AND WHO ARE 21 THIS STATE, HOLD A VALID PRACTICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY IN LICENSE ISSUED UNDER SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED FOUR OF THIS 22 ARTICLE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS LICENSED UNDER SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED 23 ARE 24 FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE. ALTHOUGH FIRMS MAY INCLUDE NON-LICENSEE THE FIRM AND ITS OWNERS MUST COMPLY WITH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD. 26 THE FOREGOING, A FIRM REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOTWITHSTANDING

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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"CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT," OR "CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS," OR THE ABBREVIATIONS "CPA" OR "CPAS."

- B. EACH NON-LICENSEE OWNER OF A FIRM THAT IS REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE (1) A NATURAL PERSON WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE BUSINESS OF THE FIRM OR ITS AFFILIATED ENTITIES, OR (2) AN ENTITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A PARTNERSHIP OR PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, PROVIDED EACH BENEFICIAL OWNER OF AN EQUITY INTEREST IN SUCH ENTITY IS A NATURAL PERSON WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE FIRM OR ITS AFFILIATED ENTITIES. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE" MEANS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CLIENTS OR TO OTHERWISE INDIVIDUALLY TAKE PART IN THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OR MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRM.
- S 2. Section 1503 of the business corporation law is amended by adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:
- (H) ANY FIRM ESTABLISHED FOR THE BUSINESS PURPOSE OF LAWFULLY ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY THAT IS REGISTERED UNDER SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT OF THE EDUCATION LAW MAY BE INCORPORATED AS A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE. SUCH A FIRM SHALL HAVE ATTACHED TO ITS CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION A CERTIFICATE OR CERTIFICATES DEMONSTRATING THE FIRM'S COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH A OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT OF THE EDUCATION LAW, IN LIEU OF THE CERTIFICATE OR CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SECTION.
- S 3. Paragraph (d) of section 1525 of the business corporation law, as added by chapter 505 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:
- (d) "Foreign professional service corporation" means a professional service corporation, whether or not denominated as such, organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than this state, all of the shareholders, directors and officers of which are authorized and licensed to practice the profession for which such corporation is licensed to do business; except that all shareholders, directors and officers of a foreign professional service corporation which provides health services in this state shall be licensed in this state. ANY FIRM ESTABLISHED FOR THE BUSINESS PURPOSE OF LAWFULLY ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY THAT IS LICENSED UNDER SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT OF THE EDUCATION LAW MAY BE INCORPORATED AS A FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
- S 4. The fourteenth undesignated paragraph of section 2 of the partnership law, as added by chapter 576 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

"Professional partnership" means (1) a partnership without limited partners each of whose partners is a professional authorized by law to render a professional service within this state, (2) a partnership without limited partners each of whose partners is a professional, at least one of whom is authorized by law to render a professional service within this state or (3) a partnership without limited partners authorized by, or holding a license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the licensing authority pursuant to the education law to render a professional service within this state; except that all partners of a professional partnership that provides medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in this state and all partners of a professional partnership that provides dental services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education law to practice dentistry in this state; [and further] except that all partners of a professional partnership that provides professional engineering, land surveying, architectural

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and/or landscape architectural services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of such professions in this state; AND FURTHER EXCEPT THAT ALL PARTNERS OF A PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP THAT PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, MUST BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO PRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY IN THIS STATE.

- S 5. Subdivision (q) of section 121-1500 of the partnership law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- (q) Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed 12 provide medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to 13 14 article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in this state each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to 16 provide dental services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education law to practice dentistry in this state. 17 partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide 18 19 veterinary services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 20 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine in this state. EACH PARTNER OF A REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP 21 FORMED 22 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, 23 MUST 24 LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO PRACTICE PUBLIC 25 ACCOUNTANCY IN THIS STATE. Each partner of a registered limited liabil-26 ity partnership formed to provide professional engineering, land surveying, architectural and/or landscape architectural services in this state 27 28 must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of such professions in this 29 state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed 30 to provide licensed clinical social work services in this state must be 31 32 licensed pursuant to article 154 of the education law to practice clin-33 ical social work in this state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide creative arts therapy services 34 in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education 35 to practice creative arts therapy in this state. Each partner of a 36 37 registered limited liability partnership formed to provide marriage and 38 family therapy services in this state must be licensed pursuant to arti-39 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in 40 this state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide mental health counseling services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice mental health counseling in this state. Each partner of a registered 41 42 43 44 limited liability partnership formed to provide psychoanalysis services 45 this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis in this state. Each partner of a regis-46 47 tered limited liability partnership formed to provide applied behavior 48 analysis service in this state must be licensed or certified pursuant to 49 article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis 50 in this state.
 - S 6. Subdivision (q) of section 121-1502 of the partnership law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
 - (q) Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in the state and

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each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides dental services in the state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of 3 the education law to practice dentistry in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides veterinary service in the state shall be licensed pursuant to article 135 of the education 6 to practice veterinary medicine in this state. Each partner of a 7 foreign limited liability partnership which provides professional engineering, land surveying, architectural and/or landscape architectural services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 9 10 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of 11 such professions. EACH PARTNER OF A REGISTERED FOREIGN LIMITED LIABIL-12 ITY PARTNERSHIP FORMED TO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO PROVIDES PUBLIC 13 14 ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, MUST BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 15 EDUCATION LAW TO PRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY IN THIS STATE. Each partner 16 of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides licensed clin-17 social work services in this state must be licensed pursuant to 18 article 154 of the education law to practice licensed clinical social 19 work in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partner-20 ship which provides creative arts therapy services in this state must be 21 licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice crea-22 tive arts therapy in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides marriage and family therapy 23 24 services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of 25 education law to practice marriage and family therapy in this state. 26 Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides 27 mental health counseling services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice mental health coun-28 29 seling in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides psychoanalysis services in this state must be 30 licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice 31 32 psychoanalysis in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides applied behavior analysis services in 33 34 this state must be licensed or certified pursuant to article 167 of the 35 education law to practice applied behavior analysis in this state. 36

- S 7. Subdivision (h) of section 121-101 of the partnership law, as added by chapter 950 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:
- (h) "Limited partnership" and "domestic limited partnership" mean, unless the context otherwise requires, a partnership (i) formed by two or more persons pursuant to this article or which complies with subdivision (a) of section 121-1202 of this article and (ii) having one or more general partners and one or more limited partners. ANY FIRM ESTABLISHED FOR THE BUSINESS PURPOSE OF LAWFULLY ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY THAT IS LICENSED UNDER SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT OF THE EDUCATION LAW MAY BE FORMED AS A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
- S 8. Subdivision (b) of section 1207 of the limited liability company law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- (b) With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide medical services as such services are defined in article 131 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide dental services as such services are defined in article 133 of the education law, each member of

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such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 133 the education law to practice dentistry in this state. With respect 3 to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide veterinary services as such services are defined in article 135 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must 5 licensed pursuant to article 135 of the education law to practice veter-6 7 inary medicine in this state. With respect to a professional service 8 limited liability company formed to provide professional engineering, land surveying, architectural and/or landscape architectural services as 9 10 such services are defined in article 145, article 147 and article 148 of 11 the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the 12 education law to practice one or more of such professions in this state. 13 14 WITH RESPECT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 15 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES AS SUCH SERVICES ARE DEFINED IN ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW EACH MEMBER OF SUCH LIMITED 16 LIABILITY 17 WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO OF 18 PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, MUST BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTI-19 CLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO PRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY ΙN 20 STATE. With respect to a professional service limited liability company 21 formed to provide licensed clinical social work services as 22 services are defined in article 154 of the education law, each member of 23 such limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 154 the education law to practice licensed clinical social work in this 24 25 state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company 26 formed to provide creative arts therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited 27 liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the educa-28 29 tion law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. With respect 30 a professional service limited liability company formed to provide 31 marriage and family therapy services as such services are defined in 32 article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liability 33 company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to 34 practice marriage and family therapy in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide mental 35 health counseling services as such services are defined in article 36 37 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice mental health counseling in this state. With respect to a professional 38 39 40 service limited liability company formed to provide psychoanalysis services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education 41 each member of such limited liability company must be licensed 42 43 pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis 44 this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability 45 company formed to provide applied behavior analysis services as such services are defined in article 167 of the education law, each member of 46 47 such limited liability company must be licensed or certified pursuant to 48 article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis 49 in this state. 50

- S 9. Subdivisions (a) and (f) of section 1301 of the limited liability company law, subdivision (a) as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013 and subdivision (f) as amended by chapter 170 of the laws of 1996, are amended to read as follows:
- (a) "Foreign professional service limited liability company" means a professional service limited liability company, whether or not denominated as such, organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than

this state, (i) each of whose members and managers, if any, is a professional authorized by law to render a professional service within this 3 state and who is or has been engaged in the practice of such profession in such professional service limited liability company or a predecessor entity, or will engage in the practice of such profession in the professional service limited liability company within thirty days of the date 5 7 such professional becomes a member, or each of whose members and manag-8 ers, if any, is a professional at least one of such members is authorized by law to render a professional service within this state and who 9 10 is or has been engaged in the practice of such profession in such 11 professional service limited liability company or a predecessor entity, 12 or will engage in the practice of such profession in the professional service limited liability company within thirty days of the date such 13 professional becomes a member, or (ii) authorized by, or holding a 14 15 license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the licensing authority pursuant to, the education law to render a professional 16 service within this state; except that all members and managers, if any, 17 a foreign professional service limited liability company that 18 19 provides health services in this state shall be licensed in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company 20 21 which provides veterinary services as such services are defined in arti-22 135 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 23 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine. With respect 24 25 to a foreign professional service limited liability company which 26 provides medical services as such services are defined in article 131 of 27 the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 131 28 29 the education law to practice medicine in this state. With respect to a 30 foreign professional service limited liability company which provides 31 dental services as such services are defined in article 133 of the 32 education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited 33 liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the educa-34 tion law to practice dentistry in this state. With respect to a foreign 35 professional service limited liability company which provides profes-36 sional engineering, land surveying, architectural and/or landscape 37 architectural services as such services are defined in article 145, article 147 and article 148 of the education law, each member of such 38 foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed 39 40 pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education 41 law to practice one or more of such professions in this state. 42 RESPECT TO A FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 43 WHICH PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES AS SUCH SERVICES ARE 44 IN ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW, EACH MEMBER OF SUCH FOREIGN PROFES-45 SIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-NESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY 46 SERVICES, 47 SHALL BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO PRAC-48 TICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY IN THIS STATE. With respect to a foreign profes-49 sional service limited liability company which provides licensed clin-50 ical social work services as such services are defined in article 154 of 51 education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 154 of 52 53 the education law to practice clinical social work in this state. With 54 respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company 55 which provides creative arts therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign 56

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professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service liability company which provides marriage and family therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each 6 member of such foreign professional service limited liability company 7 licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in this state. With respect to a 8 foreign professional service limited liability company which provides 9 10 mental health counseling services as such services are defined in arti-11 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional 12 service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 13 the education law to practice mental health counseling in this 14 state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability 15 company which provides psychoanalysis services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign 16 17 professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant 18 to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis in this 19 state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability 20 company which provides applied behavior analysis services 21 services are defined in article 167 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be 22 23 licensed or certified pursuant to article 167 of the education 24 practice applied behavior analysis in this state. 25

(f) "Professional partnership" means (1) a partnership without limited partners each of whose partners is a professional authorized by law to render a professional service within this state, (2) a partnership without limited partners each of whose partners is a professional, at least one of whom is authorized by law to render a professional service within this state or (3) a partnership without limited partners authorized by, or holding a license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the licensing authority pursuant to the education law to render a professional service within this state; except that all partners of a professional partnership that provides medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice mediin this state and all partners of a professional partnership that provides dental services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education law to practice dentistry in this state; except that all partners of a professional partnership that provides veterinary services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine in this state; further except that all partners of a professional partnership that provides professional engineering, land surveying, architectural, and/or landscape architectural services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of such professions. WITH RESPECT TO A PROFES-SIONAL PARTNERSHIP WHICH PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES SERVICES ARE DEFINED IN ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW, EACH MEMBER OF SUCH PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN THIS STATE AND WHO PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES, LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 149 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO PRACTICE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY.

S 10. This act shall take effect immediately.