

SUBJECT: Expanding scholarship eligibility for certain accounting students

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Burns, Clardy, Cole, Howard, Lalani, Raney
0 nays
3 absent — Bucy, Burrows, M. González

WITNESSES: For — Kenneth Besserman, Texas Society of CPAs (*Registered, but did not testify*; Sloan Byerly, Cohn Reznick; Jerry Hill)
Against — None
On — Bill Treacy, Texas State Board of Public Accountancy

DIGEST: HB 2504 would amend the requirements of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (TSBPA) regarding the award of scholarship money to accounting students by removing the condition that scholarship money be awarded only to fifth-year accounting students.

The bill would amend the criteria that TSBPA would consider in awarding a scholarship for an applicant to include the condition that scholastic ability and performance considered by TSBPA be in at least 15 hours of upper-level accounting coursework.

HB 2504 would remove the requirement for such scholarship money to be spent only on expenses related to an accounting student’s fifth year of an accounting program.

The bill also would repeal the definition of “fifth-year accounting student” from ch. 901, Occupations Code.

TSBPA would be required to adopt necessary rules to implement the bill no later than October 1, 2023.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2405 would help to increase the number of certified public accountants in the state by expanding access to scholarships. The bill would make it easier for accounting students to complete the 150 semester hours for a CPA license by reducing the financial burden associated with taking the necessary classes.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.