

1 SENATE BILL NO. 166  
2 INTRODUCED BY G. HERTZ  
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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EDUCATION  
5 REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 37-50-305, MCA;  
6 AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
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10 **Section 1.** Section 37-50-305, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"37-50-305. Education requirements -- definition.** (1) An applicant for initial licensure as a certified  
12 public accountant must have:

13 (a) graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree ~~and at least~~  
14 ~~150 semester hours of credit;~~ and

15 (b) met the requirements for accounting and business course credit hours specified by board rule.

16 (2) (a) A licensee shall obtain continuing education credits as provided by board and department  
17 rule.

18 (b) If an audit conducted under 37-1-306 results in more than 15% of the audited licensees being  
19 noncompliant before the department administers the provisions of 37-1-321, in the subsequent audit year the  
20 board may audit up to 100% of the licensees.

21 (3) An applicant for a certified public accountant license who has not completed the educational  
22 hours requirement s of subsection (1)(a) may be licensed if the applicant meets the requirements established  
23 by the board by rule for additional work experience equivalent to the provisions of subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).

24 (3)(4)(3) For the purposes of this section, "initial licensure" means that the applicant has never  
25 been licensed as a certified public accountant by any jurisdiction."

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27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.

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