

April 2020 Legislative E-news

Legislative Update

COVID-19: State Legislation Impacting Regulation of the Accounting Profession

Alaska

[Senate Bill 241](#)

Disaster relief bill Alaska SB 241 amendment impacts professional boards. The bill allows boards to expedite licenses to out of state applicants (which expires Sept. 2020 or when the disaster is declared over by Gov.) and temporarily waive CE requirements.

District of Columbia

[Legislative Action](#)

Amends District of Columbia Law (Sec. 310. Extension of licenses and registrations) to allow the Mayor to do the following during a declared public health emergency: (1) extend the validity of a license, registration, permit, or authorization, including drivers licenses, vehicle registrations, professional licenses, registrations, and certifications; (2) Waive the deadlines for filings, and waive fees, fines, and penalties associated with the failure to timely renew a license, registration, permit, or other authorization or to timely submit a filing; or (3) Extend or waive the deadline by which action is required to be taken by the executive branch of the District government or by which an approval or disapproval is deemed to have occurred based on inaction by the executive branch of the District government. Also amends The Open Meetings Act requiring public bodies to "take steps reasonably calculated to allow the public to view or hear the meeting while the meeting is taking place, or, if doing so is not technologically feasible, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter."

Louisiana

[Senate Bill 469](#)

Provides that during the declared public health emergency issued in Proclamation 25 JBE 2020, and any extension thereof, no professional or occupational licensing board or commission shall take any punitive or disciplinary action against a licensee solely for the late payment of a fee, late submission of a document, or failure to timely meet any deadline required by law.

New Jersey

[Assembly Bill 3901](#)

[Senate Bill 2334](#)

During a state of emergency, the bill allows a professional or occupational licensing board

within the Division of Consumer Affairs the ability to reactivate a license on an expedited basis to any individual who held a corresponding license in good standing at the time the individual retired from active practice or was placed on inactive status within the last three years. The board may do the following:

- Temporarily waive renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation of a license requirements including continuing education.
- Determine the duration and terms of license.
- Require those granted a license to practice the profession in New Jersey as deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Oklahoma

[Senate Bill 661](#)

Among the amendments to the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act includes allowing "public bodies" (boards, agencies, commissions, etc.) to meet and vote via teleconference and videoconference.

Pennsylvania

[House Bill 2384](#)

A person is immune from civil and criminal liability and from imposition of an administrative sanction, including any liability or sanction imposed by professional or occupational licensing board or commission, for engaging in a protected business operation.