



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DEBORAH J. GLICK
Assemblymember 66TH District
New York County

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Rules
Ways & Means

July 9, 2009

Mr. Thomas Riley
Beard Miller Company, LLP
115 Solar Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13204-5461

Dear Mr. Riley,

Thank you for your letter advocating the adoption of mobility legislation in New York. The profession of public accountancy has evolved since it was first licensed in New York over 100 years ago. This is why I was pleased to introduce legislation last session that updated the public accountancy law to reflect the current practice of the profession. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Paterson in January 2009 and is the first major amendment to the public accountancy statute since 1947.

Public accountancy is one of several licensed professions seeking to implement mobility legislation in New York. Given that New York State's standards for professional licensing are some of the most stringent in the country, I have serious concerns about any legislation that would allow professionals licensed in another state to practice in New York indefinitely and without having to give notice the State Board responsible for overseeing that profession.

My concerns are shared by the majority of public accountants licensed in New York. In May 2001, the Office of the Professions, in the New York State Education Department, surveyed all New York State registered CPAs and PAs to ask their views on many of the critical issues being discussed across the country that could impact the future of the accountancy profession including mobility. Over 12,000 licensees responded to the survey, giving it a respectable response rate of 35 percent. More than 75 percent of respondents indicated that New York should not embrace the concept of substantial equivalency to make it easier for out-of-state CPAs to practice in New York even if this means lowering some of New York's licensing standards.

While this data may be slightly dated, it does indicate that there is disagreement about mobility legislation within the public accountancy field. The mobility issue was discussed extensively last year as the legislature developed the bill to update the public accountancy scope of practice. The idea was rejected then and was not included in our comprehensive legislation. Therefore, I cannot imagine that this issue will be taken up by the Assembly any time soon. I will not support legislation that would weaken New York licensing standards and is not fully supported by the public accountancy field.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember

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