

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 280

H. P. 234

House of Representatives, February 2, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Joyce of Portland.

Cosponsors: Mr. Masterman of Milo, Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport and Mr. Hickey of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Concerning the Profession of Public Accountancy.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

32 MRSA § 3986, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 344, § 1, is amended to read:

1. **Application.** Who makes application to the board ~~prior to the 30th day of June, 1974,~~ and

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will restore the examination for licensing of public accountants. Under the present law, no new applicants may be accepted to take the examination for licensing as a public accountant. In effect, the existing law will eventually eliminate the licensed public accountants as a class. The present law, Title 32, section 3986, subsection 1, reads as follows: "Application. Who makes application to the board **prior to the 30th day of June, 1974,** and"

Standards for the guidance of the public in using the services of practitioners in public accountancy should be based upon fair and equitable treatment of all qualified practitioners. In a democracy, all persons who possess demonstrated

ability to practice a profession should be encouraged to engage in it and develop their talents. Obviously to do this, it is vital that the examination and licensing of new applicants should be restored. The small businessman as well as the large businessman should have a choice of the services he needs. Our aim is to be certain that the services he needs are available through qualified public accountants.

In our society, the growing complexities of business operations resulting from a multitude of governmental laws, regulations and rules have created a situation where businessmen require the services of more practicing public accountants. The right to take the examination and be licensed will provide for this. In addition, it would upgrade the profession. Finally, the general business community will ultimately benefit.