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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY PURSUES LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AIMED AT EASING TRANSITION TO NEW EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

(Sacramento, CA) – The CBA is moving forward with two legislative proposals meant to ease the transition to the new educational requirements to obtain a California Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license taking effect next year.

“With the new CPA licensure requirements soon approaching, we understand that it may be challenging for some applicants to meet the current requirements by December 31, 2013,” said Leslie J. LaManna CPA, President of the CBA. “The legislative proposals are intended to ease the transition for those applicants.”

The first proposal would allow individuals who have passed the Uniform CPA Exam by December 31, 2013, to apply for CPA licensure under the existing pathways. If this legislation is successful, this option will be allowed for a two-year period until December 31, 2015.

The second proposal seeks to allow students enrolled in five-year programs resulting in the dual conferral of baccalaureate and master’s degrees at the end of the program to take the Uniform CPA Exam once they have completed all the baccalaureate degree requirements. Both proposals are included in Senate Bill 823.

Recently passed legislation and regulatory changes will significantly transform the educational requirements for obtaining a California CPA license. Beginning January 1, 2014, applicants for CPA licensure must document completion of a baccalaureate degree or higher with a minimum of 150 semester units, including 24 semester units each in accounting and business-related subjects, 20 units of accounting study, and 10 units of ethics education. The core educational requirements to take the Uniform CPA Exam remain unchanged.

The CBA maintains a wealth of information regarding all aspects of the upcoming changes to the licensure requirements on its website at [www.cba.ca.gov](http://www.cba.ca.gov), including tip sheets, frequently asked questions, a PowerPoint presentation, webinar, and a self-assessment worksheet.

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*Created by statute in 1901, the CBA’s mandate ensures protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Board of Accountancy in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. The CBA currently regulates more than 85,000 licensees, the largest*

*group of licensed accounting professionals in the nation, including individuals, partnerships, and corporations.*