

The Licensing Committee of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy is holding a meeting by online video conference call pursuant to §551.127 of the Open Meetings Act. The public may attend the meeting in-person at the office of the Board which is located at 505 E. Huntland Drive, Suite 370, Austin, Texas 78752. The Chair of the Licensing Committee will be present at the 505 E. Huntland Drive location for the entirety of the meeting. In the alternative, the public may attend the meeting virtually using the following link:

Topic: Licensing Committee Meeting

Time: Mar 3, 2022 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610644126?pwd=ZzJjSmUzaEFxR0JLQURxalhSemx6QT09>

Meeting ID: 161 064 4126

Passcode: 646321

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 161 064 4126

Licensing Committee Agenda

March 3, 2022

2:00 P.M.

- A. Update on fingerprinting progress.
- B. Discussion, consideration and possible action related to compliance with Sec 901.169 (c) requiring licensees to submit their fingerprints to the board.
- C. Adjourn

Licensing Committee Agenda

March 3, 2022

2:00 P.M.

A. Update on fingerprinting progress.

Discussion:

The Board started communicating to Texas CPAs about the requirement to be fingerprinted through various channels early as the May 2019 Board Report. The fingerprint process established with the Department of Public Safety was made available to licensees in October of 2019 and since that date, every licensee that accesses their online account through the Board's website sees an update regarding their fingerprint status. More than 44,000 Texas CPAs have now come into compliance, but the deadline to complete fingerprints for those remaining is fast approaching.

There are 82,983 Texas CPAs identified in our database from a query on February 12, 2022 (excludes those that are deceased, revoked, and surrendered or otherwise do not currently have a license with the Board). The fingerprint breakdown is as follows:

10,364	Still need to be fingerprinted
8,320	issued status - 5,935 Texas residents and 2,385 are not (inclusive of 224 that live out of country). 2,675 of the 8,320 are age-eligible to retire
2,044	expired status - 1,455 Texas residents and 589 are not (inclusive of 58 that live out of country)

13,850	Retired/disabled license status and not required to be fingerprinted
12,562	issued (1,529 of these were also fingerprinted)
1,288	expired (35 of these were also fingerprinted)

58,769	Fingerprints complete (includes all licensees fingerprinted since 9/1/2014)
57,136	issued
1,633	expired

Authorized fingerprint facilities around the state are open and there are ample appointments available to easily meet the demand from Texas CPAs.

RECOMMENDATION: None required

SUGGESTED MOTION: none required

Licensing Committee Agenda

March 3, 2022

2:00 P.M.

- B.** Discussion, consideration and possible action related to compliance with Sec 901.169 (c) requiring licensees to submit their fingerprints to the board.

With few exception, Sec. 901.169. of the Public Accountancy Act (the Act) requires Texas CPAs to be submit fingerprints prior to September 1, 2022 in order to satisfy their annual license renewal requirements. Paragraph (c) states:

“The board may administratively suspend or refuse to renew the license of an individual who is an applicant for renewal of a license under Subchapter I and who does not comply with the requirement of Subsection (a).”

Staff is recommending an email letter, shown on the following page, be sent at the end of March. to the 10,000+ Texas CPAs that have yet to be fingerprinted. The letter will be emailed and hardcopy mailed again at the end of June to those that remain un-fingerprinted at that time.

After the September 1, 2022 deadline, the committee will extend a final admonition and begin opening administrative suspensions.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff to engage with licensees that have yet to be fingerprinted.

SUGGESTED MOTION: none required

SAMPLE LETTER

March 31, 2022

<<Name>>, CPA
<<Address>>
<<Address>>

LICENSE ID: 123456
AGENCY IDENTIFIER: BP-L123456

Dear <<Name>>,

Your fingerprint-based background check has not been completed. The deadline to complete this requirement is September 1, 2022. No further extensions will be provided, and non-compliance may result in an administrative suspension of your license pursuant to 901.169 (c) of the Public Accountancy Act. Please follow the instructions below to schedule and complete your fingerprinting appointment as quickly as possible.

To schedule your fingerprinting appointment, visit Identogo at the following link: <https://uenroll.identogo.com/workflows/11J9GV>. When prompted, please enter your unique Agency Identifier noted above.

If you need further assistance, please contact this office at 512-305-7853.



Sincerely,

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

WILLIAM TREACY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WT/dlw

Sec. 901.169. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION.

(a) The board shall require an individual to submit a complete and legible set of fingerprints, on a form prescribed by the board, to the board or to the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation if:

(1) the individual has not previously submitted fingerprints for the purpose of the board obtaining criminal history record information; and

(2) the individual:

(A) is an applicant to take the uniform CPA examination;

(B) is an applicant for a certificate;

(C) is an owner or seeks to become an owner of a certified public accountancy firm and the individual is not a license holder, if requested by the board under Section 901.354(e);

(D) is an applicant for a license under Subchapter I; or

(E) is an applicant for renewal of a license under Subchapter I, unless the applicant is an individual who does not engage in the practice of public accountancy because of retirement or permanent disability.

(b) The board may not allow an individual to take the uniform CPA examination or issue a certificate or license to an individual who The Public Accountancy Act Chapter 901 of the Occupations Code 21 does not comply with the requirement of Subsection (a).

(c) The board may administratively suspend or refuse to renew the license of an individual who is an applicant for renewal of a license under Subchapter I and who does not comply with the requirement of Subsection (a).

(d) The board shall require a license holder who qualified for an exemption described by Subsection (a)(2)(E) to comply with the requirement of Subsection (a) if the license holder no longer qualifies for the exemption.

(e) The board shall conduct a criminal history record information check of each individual required to submit fingerprints under Subsection (a) using information:

(1) provided by the individual under this section; and

(2) made available to the board by the Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other criminal justice agency under Chapter 411, Government Code.

(f) The board may:

(1) enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Safety to administer a criminal history record information check required under this section; and

(2) authorize the Department of Public Safety to collect from each applicant the costs incurred by the Department of Public Safety in conducting the criminal history record information check.

Licensing Committee Agenda

March 3, 2022

2:00 P.M.

C. Adjourn