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NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY VOTES TO SUPPORT CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION

SACRAMENTO- The California Board of Accountancy is supporting several new bills that would enhance consumer protection. At its meeting March 25, 2011 in San Diego, the CBA voted to support the following bills:

- Assembly Bill 431, which would authorize the CBA to establish a retired status for its licensees, while prohibiting the holder of a “retired” license from practicing public accountancy. This bill would also authorize the CBA to establish minimum qualifications for restoration to an active status, and deny retired status to any licensee whose license is canceled, suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted.
- AB 675, which would provide that courses that promote labor organizing, statutory or regulatory changes, political candidates or advocacy shall not be acceptable as continuing education (CE). The CBA supports CE as a means of ensuring the competency of licensees and believes that this bill will protect consumers by ensuring the relevance of CE to the license.
- Senate Bill 366, which would require state agencies to identify out-of-date, duplicative and inconsistent regulations and proceed with a rulemaking to remedy the problems. The CBA believes that updating its regulations will make them simpler and more usable to its stakeholders.

Also at the March meeting, the CBA voted to support several bills if amended. They include:

- Assembly Bill 410, which would require that upon request, a narrative description of changes to regulations be provided to a person with a visual disability. The CBA supported similar legislation in 2010, and is working with the bill’s authors to make certain a provision in AB 410 that could inadvertently work against consumer protection will be adjusted.
- Senate Bill 306, which would require the CBA to extend the Safe Harbor period for Practice Privilege until December 31, 2013. The Safe Harbor period is the interval of time in which an out-of-state CPA, practicing temporarily in California, has to file for a

Practice Privilege. The CBA is already pursuing regulations to make the Safe Harbor period permanent, and is working with the bill's author on an amendment that would make the Safe Harbor period permanent in the law, eliminating the need for the regulation altogether.

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Created by statute in 1901, the CBA's mandate requires that protection of the public shall be its highest priority in exercising 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.

More information about the California Board of Accountancy is available at www.cba.ca.gov

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