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NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY TESTIFIES AT SUNSET REVIEW HEARING

SACRAMENTO - The California Board of Accountancy (CBA) testified on March 18, 2015, at the Joint Oversight Hearing of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development (Senate BP&ED) and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, as part of its Sunset Review conducted by the Legislature every four years.

Representing the CBA, Vice-President Katrina Salazar and Executive Officer Patti Bowers provided the Legislature with an update on some of the important consumer protection achievements since the CBA's last Sunset Review in 2011. Among them:

- A new retired license status
- Strengthened educational requirements for initial licensure with a heavy emphasis on ethics study
- Implementation of the Peer Review Program
- A retroactive fingerprinting requirement for licensees that were not originally required to undergo this process as a condition for licensure, and
- Increased staffing in the Enforcement Program

As one of 42 Boards, Bureaus and other entities operating under the Department of Consumer Affairs, the CBA must undergo a Sunset Review by the Legislature every four years to determine whether the CBA is meeting its consumer protection mandate and whether the State should continue to regulate the practice of public accountancy. Presently, the CBA's Sunset date is January 1, 2016. Senator Jerry Hill, Chair of the Senate BP&ED, has introduced Senate Bill (SB) 467, which seeks to extend the CBA's Sunset date to January 1, 2020. It is anticipated SB 467 will be heard by the respective Committees sometime in April.

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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 97,000 licensees, the largest group of licensed accounting professionals in the nation, including individuals, partnerships, and corporations.

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