



DALE KOOYENGA
STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882 · Madison, WI 53707-7882 · (608) 266-2512

March 4, 2021

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga
RE: Support for Assembly Bill 15

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 15, legislation relating to educational qualifications for certified public accountants (CPA).

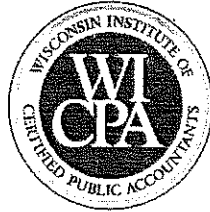
CPAs are trusted financial professionals who provide expertise ranging from the preparation of taxes to financial advice for both individuals and businesses. This legislation would allow hours at a non-bachelor's degree-granting institution to count towards the required 150 semester hours to become a CPA in the state of Wisconsin.

Under current law, only the semester hours completed at a bachelor's degree-granting institution, including transfer credits from these institutions, count towards the required hours. This bill broadens the definition of institution from which transfer credits may be accepted to include non-bachelor's degree granting institutions.

Wisconsin is currently experiencing a shortage of CPAs, and this legislation would be beneficial to both alleviate the deficiency and encourage those with completed semesters at varying institutions to work towards the CPA certification.

The Accounting Examining Board (AEB) and the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA), the professional organization for CPAs and accounting professionals, both support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. I respectfully ask for your support of Assembly Bill 15.



**Wisconsin Institute of
Certified Public Accountants**

DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Chair Murphy and members of the Committee on Colleges and Universities

FROM: Tammy Hofstede, President & CEO
Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants

RE: Urge you to support AB15/SB10 authored by Representatives Wittke, Zimmerman, Dittrich, Gundrum, Kuglitsch, VanderMeer, Moses, Ramthun, Skowronski, Tranel, Rozar and Knodl and Senators Kooyenga, Ballweg, Darling, Felzowski, Marklein and Nass

The Wisconsin Institute of CPAs (WICPA), which represents over 7,000 members and their organizations across the state, has worked closely with the Accounting Examining Board and the lead authors of this legislation to allow credits completed at a non-bachelor's degree institution that do not transfer to a bachelor's degree institution to count towards the 150-hour credit requirement for certification and licensure as a certified public accountant.

There is a state and national shortage of CPAs. There is also the issue of students leaving Wisconsin to attend other colleges and for out-of-state jobs.

There are no specific requirements for the additional 30 credits of education needed for certification and licensure. This will not impact the integrity of the certification. Students will still be required to complete the mandatory courses needed for certification and licensure.

By adopting this legislation, students would benefit by having less college debt and stay local, increasing the number of students who attend a technical college and then a bachelor's degree institution to complete the requirements for CPA licensure. Businesses, including public accounting firms, the general public and communities in need of more CPAs would also benefit greatly by this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.



ROBERT WITKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 62nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Rep. Robert Wittke Testimony Assembly Bill 15
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
March 4, 2021**

Chair Murphy and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 15 which would modify the education qualifications for certified public accountants to allow students seeking certification to have their academic credits from non-bachelor's degree-granting institution (a technical or junior college) used to meet hourly certification criteria.

As we look to build our workforce, this is an important step to moving students into the field of accounting sooner and with proper training to fill the gap of much need financial professionals. Assembly Bill 15 recognizes the academic excellence of higher education institutions. It is important and valuable for students and their families to move them through the higher education process in a timely manner so their financial output for tuition does not hinder their vocation and career goals.

Assembly Bill 15 is a good step forward for students who have completed required coursework for the accounting process to be recognized and accepted for CPA certification. Thank you for hearing this bill and moving it through the legislative process swiftly. Let's give students the boost they need to achieve their goals.