

## Proposed Amendments to Continuing Professional Education and Biennial Renewal Fee Regulations

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the State Board of Accountancy will seek a biennial renewal fee increase to cover required expenses.

The proposed change would take effect beginning Jan. 1, 2010, increasing the biennial renewal fee for Certified Public Accountants, Public Accountants and Public Accounting Firms from \$45 to \$100. The last time the board raised renewal fees was in 1990.

"The increase boils down to an additional \$50 per year to maintain the integrity of the accountancy profession and to protect the health, safety and welfare of every consumer in the commonwealth," Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner of the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, said.

By law, the board must ensure that its biennial revenues from fees, fines and civil penalties meet or exceed its biennial expenditures.

The board will also seek an increase in the biennial renewal fee for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Program Sponsors from \$120 to \$150 to account for additional cost and expenses incurred in reviewing CPE courses.

In addition, the board will propose amendments to the CPE regulations **to revise** and **clarify** provisions in CPE subject areas, **to ease** CPE reporting requirements and **to expedite** disciplinary action for failure to comply with CPE requirements.

The changes in the CPE regulations:

- **Require** each licensee to complete at least four hours of professional ethics as part of the biennial 80-hour CPE requirement.

- **Expand** the categories of approved CPE Program Sponsors and out-of-state CPE providers pursuant to substantial equivalency.
- **Eliminate** the need to list each and every CPE course on the biennial renewal application.

Please regularly check this electronic newsletter, as well as the special notices section of the board's Web site, for updated information about when the proposed amendments to the board's regulations will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for public comment.

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