



NEW STATE ACCOUNTANCY LAW EFFECTIVE JULY 26, 2009

As published August 19, 2009

Did you know that if you are a New York licensed CPA using professional skills and competencies as a CPA, or you hold yourself out as a CPA within NYS, you have to register with the State Education Department (SED) and take continuing professional education courses? You probably think this doesn't apply to you if you left public accounting, but not anymore. The new state accountancy reform law which took effect on July 26, 2009 expanded the scope of public practice to **include CPAs in industry, taxation, government and academia.**

That means, if you practice public accountancy pursuant to NYS Education Law Section 7401, which now includes accounting, management or financial advisory, and tax services rendered to your employer (CPAs in industry), you are no longer considered "inactive" and must comply with the continuing professional education (CPE) requirement. Therefore, "giving up your license" but continuing to perform accounting services is no longer an option. The only exemption from the new CPE requirement is available by filing a written statement with the SED declaring that you are not practicing within the expanded scope of public accountancy.

You can find detailed articles and more information by going to the State Education Department at www.op.nysed.gov/cpa-lawchange2009.htm or the New York State Society of CPAs website at www.nysscpa.org/page/reform-law.

To learn more contact Sherry L. DelleBovi, CPA, Partner at sdellebovi@lumsden CPA.com.

