STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
INSURANCE TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF
ACCOUNTANCY

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Program Website:
https://www.tn.gov/commerce/section/accountancy

A meeting of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at Davy Crockett Tower, 500 James Robertson Parkway in Conference Room 1A

MEMBERS PRESENT
Greg Gilbert, Chair
John Griesbeck, Vice-Chair
Pamela Church, Secretary
Andy Bonner
Brad Buchanan
David Crenshaw
Brad Floyd
Kevin Monroe
Robert Vance

MEMBERS ABSENT
Sam Bennett

LEGAL COUNSEL
Lee Lott, Associate General Counsel, Regulatory Boards
Chris Russell, Legal Assistant

STAFF
Reid Witcher, Assistant Commissioner
Gin Binkley, Executive Director
Duke Speed, Board Investigator
Karen Condon, Board staff

OTHERS ATTENDING
Katie Cheek, Chief Operating Officer, TSCPA
Liz Wolfe, Deputy Chief Legal Officer, NASBA
Michael Bryant, CPA

Call to Order – Chairman Greg Gilbert

Chairman Gilbert called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Public Disclaimer and Roll-Call

The meeting was properly noticed and the agenda posted on the Board’s website on July 22, 2025.

Individuals wishing to make a public comment may sign in on the sheet provided. Participation via Teams is not available due to a technical error, though members of the public may view the meeting via live stream.

Members made their presence known through roll call and a quorum was established.

Announcements

- Liz Wolfe and other representatives of NASBA are in attendance.
- Dr. Pam Church and Kevin Monroe have both agreed to continue to serve in their Board roles for this meeting, as appointments to fill the seats they vacated at the end of their most recent term are still pending.
- Chairman Gilbert has been re-appointed by Governor Lee for a three-year term.
- There is a change to the proposed agenda – the TSCPA Peer Review update will be presented by Katie Cheek, COO of the TSCPA. Kara Fitzgerald, CEO of the TSCPA, had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend today's meeting.
- Andy Bonner was recently presented with the TSCPA's 2025 TSCPApex Lifetime Achievement Award, with more details coming later in the meeting.

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion and second to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion unanimously passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Motion and second to approve the minutes as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

Executive Director's Report – Gin Binkley, Executive Director

Director Binkley presented a report of Board and staff activities, upcoming NASBA meetings, licensing and exam statistics, and performance metrics.

Motion and second to approve the proposed meeting dates Tuesday, August 11, 2026, and Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Motion unanimously passed.

Legislative Update—Lee Lott

The Less is More Act of 2025 has been signed into law.

- Changes to license requirements will go into effect January 1, 2026.
- Mr. Witcher noted that the Act included a provision in which Boards are required to meet in person at least once annually. Boards are no longer required to have prior approval to meet virtually but must meet in person at least once a year.
- The Board can hold emergency meetings between scheduled ones if properly noticed.

Mr. Lott provided an update on the Board's recent rulemaking efforts, noting that the approved rule changes to peer review requirements will be effective September 28, 2025.

Board Committee Reports

Committees meet one day prior to the Board meeting to discuss agenda items and to decide on recommendations to make to the full Board.

Licensing—Pam Church, Committee Chair

Dr. Church noted that, going forward, requests for credit extensions will be presented to the Board without the candidate's name and that the extenuating circumstances for extension requests must be beyond the candidate's control.

- A candidate has requested that the Board consider an extension of his AUD score from an expiration date of 6/30/2025 to 8/30/2025 due to delays resulting from providing care and support for his ailing mother.
- A candidate has requested that the Board consider a ten-month extension of her REG score from an expiration date of 6/30/2025 to 5/20/2026 for reasons of ill health.
- A candidate has requested that the Board consider a nine-month extension of her FAR score from an expiration date of 6/30/2025 to 3/31/2026 due to medical and family issues.
- A candidate has requested that the Board consider an additional extension of his REG and AUD scores from an expiration date of 8/31/2025 to 12/31/2025 for both sections for medical reasons. The Board had voted to approve an extension of these scores from 6/30/2025 to 8/31/2025 at the May 6, 2025, meeting of the Board. The medical issues persist.
- A candidate has requested that the Board consider a six-month extension of her AUD score from an expiration date of 6/30/2025 to 12/31/2025 for medical reasons.

Committee motion to approve all five items on the Licensing agenda. Motion unanimously passed.

Law and Rules—John Griesbeck, Committee Chair

Request for Rulemaking Hearing

The Board is asked to approve a rulemaking hearing to consider amendments to Rules 0020-01, 0020-02, 0020-04, and 0020-05. Director Binkley provided an overview of the suggested changes.

The Board is asked to amend the rules to complete the retrospective review process. As required by the uniform Administrative Procedures Act, the amendments are also required to incorporate relevant provisions of the Less is More act of 2025, which was enacted into law during the most recent session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Committee motion to begin the rulemaking process. Motion unanimously passed.

Discipline Matrix Update

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the discipline guidelines used by the Board to impose discipline for various violations of the laws and rules.

Committee Motion to approve the proposed changes to the guidelines. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Buchanan noted that the discipline guidelines should be made available to the public, if possible. Mr. Bonner noted that the Board should consider all of the violations of an alleged violator. Mr. Monroe noted these are only guidelines and the Board has discretion to act as appropriate within the law.

Enforcement –Kevin Monroe, Committee Chair

Case and Complaint Report

The committee reviewed a summary of open complaints. The cases before the Board at this meeting are not included in the Case and Complaint Report.

Legal Report

Consent Agenda

This agenda details cases in which Legal has not recommended formal discipline. Recommendations may include closure, a letter of warning, or a letter of instruction. There are no items with proposed discipline before the Board.

1. 2025017701
2. 2025020871
3. 2025031111
4. 2025020511
5. 2025021691
6. 2025010181
7. 2025029121
8. 2025010851

Committee Motion to approve items 1-8 of the Consent Agenda. Motion unanimously passed.

Executive – Chairman Gilbert

Travel

FY25 Financial Results

The Committee heard an overview of staff travel costs and the FY25 financial results to date.

NASBA/AICPA Updates

NASBA Board of Directors – Andy Bonner

Board Member Bonner shared updates on recent NASBA activities, including NASBA task force efforts to further understand concerns around private equity ownership in accounting firms that potentially undermine firms' independence among other concerns; upcoming proposed changes to NASBA's CPE Standards; recent exam pass rates; recent ongoing IT projects including development of a candidate app, an online CPA mobility tool that reports what the requirements are to be mobile and practice in a particular state, and ALD updates; and upcoming NASBA meetings.

NASBA Committee Updates

Kevin Monroe—NASBA/AICPA Joint UAA Committee

The Ninth Edition of the Uniform Accountancy Act ("UAA"), which is a model rule, was published this month, with changes to Sections 5 and 23, which concern pathways to licensure and mobility and the allowance for the alternative pathway to licensure. The Board heard updates on legislative changes across other licensing jurisdictions in the United States.

Pamela Church—NASBA Education Committee

Board Member Church provided an updated on a recent meeting of the NASBA Education Committee. The Committee recently met to consider proposed NASBA research projects.

Greg Gilbert—Enforcement Resources Committee

Chairman Gilbert provided an update on recent NASBA Enforcement Committee activities, including a recent webcast hosted by NASBA

AICPA Committee Updates

Andy Bonner—Professional Ethics Executive Committee (PEEC)

Board Member Bonner provided an update on recent PEEC activities, including considerations made around private equity involvement in accounting firms.

TSCPA UPDATE – Katie Cheek, Chief Operating Officer, TSCPA

Ms. Cheek provided an update on the TSCPA's peer review program and recent Society activities. The Board engaged with questions at the end of Ms. Cheek's presentation.

New Business

Election of Officers

Motion and second for Greg Gilbert to continue in his role as Chair. Motion unanimously passed.

Motion and second for John Griesbeck to continue in his role as Vice-Chair. Motion unanimously passed.

Motion and second for Rob Vance to serve as Secretary. Motion unanimously passed.

Formation of Committees

Members interested in serving on, or chairing, a particular committee should notify Director Binkley.

Departmental Update—Reid Witcher, Assistant Commissioner

Mr. Witcher provided the Board with a departmental update. Considering the third consecutive period in which the Board has operated at a deficit, and to create operational efficiencies within the Department, the Department plans to begin the assignment of work of some small regulatory programs to the Accountancy team so as to move the department into a balanced budget without raising fees or cutting services.

Key points:

- The Accountancy team is remarkably efficient. Over the previous fiscal year, the team averaged 5.9 days for license processing time against a divisional average goal of 14 days.
- The department believes the Accountancy team has the time and resources to support some additional small regulatory program work.

- The plan is to dedicate not more than 25% of Director Binkley's time to these additional programs, not more than 10% of Karen Condon's time to these programs and not more than 25% of Laura Pecunes' time, with associated costs charged to the new programs.
- The change will result in a savings of a little over $60,000 annually for the Board.
- In terms of workload, the three programs have a combined 700 licensees in total as compared to the 14,000 total licensees for Accountancy.
- One of the programs has a five-member Board that meets quarterly. Director Binkley will be tasked with administering those meetings which tend to last less than 1 hour.
- The three programs are supported by a different legal team and will not require any of Lee Lott's time.
- This should not distract the staff from their duties to this Board.

Discussion:

- The Board would like to monitor any changes in scope and increase or decrease in workload or in availability for the Board of Accountancy.
- The Board appreciates the support the department is offering to Directory Binkley and staff.
- The Board has not seen the effects of changes to the pathway to licensure and does not yet know the full impact it's going to have on staff. Mr. Bonner noted the Board does not know if our staff will be overwhelmed by the recent changes to pathways. Mr. Witcher believes staff is working in such a way that they have some flexibility for increased workload both from this program and others.
- Mr. Witcher stated this is a partnership and the Board will have the ability in an ongoing way to address issues and adjust as needed, and the department will address any problems reported by Board staff.
- The Board indicated a desire to ensure that these meeting minutes reflect that the Board has the flexibility to change the arrangement of the Executive Director's workload, should the need arise in the future to renegotiate.

New Business, continued

The Board acknowledged Board Member Bonner for his recent award from the TSCPA was recently presented with TSCPApex Lifetime Achievement award, which is given in recognition of a TSCPA member who has exhibited leadership, made significant contributions to the profession and had an outstanding record of service to the society and the local community. The Board congratulated him on this honor.

The Board spends a great deal of time dealing with violations with attest services referred by the Board for Licensing Contractors. Since the facts of these cases follow a recognized pattern of violations which are typically not disputed, it has been suggested that the Accountancy Board may streamline the disciplinary process in these cases with an "Agreed Citation Order". The Accountancy staff would notate all violations on a form that may be called a "Notice of Violation" somewhat like a patrolman issuing a speeding ticket. The penalties might be less than usual such as $750 for each violation so as to incentivize the violators to settle in this manner. This system might only be appropriate for first time offenders only. The Board has the authority to delegate authority to staff to issue agreed citations directly to respondents who have prepared unlawful attest reports for contractors overseen by the Board for Licensing Contractors.

- It is anticipated that the implementation of this plan would reduce legal costs and Enforcement Committee time.
- This is not a delegation of the Board's legal authority; it is simply a delegation of an administerial act to resolve the case on these very similar cases referred from the Contractor's Board.
- Mr. Witcher noted that other Boards use a similar process.
- The Board will be asked to review a proposal for this procedure at the October 2025 meeting.
- The Board may place limitations on the staff's authority to issue citations.
- Mr. Gilbert suggested that such authority should be delegated for cases involving attest functions reviews and compilations only, with cases involving audits still coming before the Board.
- The Board would still insist on having the violation published for matters resolved with this process. Mr. Witcher notes that cases settled in this manner would still be published in the department's Disciplinary Action Report.

Chairman Gilbert thanked all members of the Accountancy team for their excellent work.

Director Binkley noted that Leann Blair and Karen Condon had been selected for the Tennessee Government Professionals Institute and the Tennessee Government Management Institute, respectively.

Public Comment

No members of the public indicated a desire to comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

G Gregory Gilbert
Chair

W. Robert Vance Jr.
Secretary