
Reference Material for Ways and Means Subcommittee – Oregon Board of Accountancy

The Oregon Board of Accountancy's mission is to protect Oregon consumers by ensuring only qualified licensees practice public accountancy in accordance with established professional standards and promulgated rules.

The core values for the Board are: consumer protection, transparency, integrity, fairness, respect and diversity. Our agency is invested in improving the education of licensees and the public. This is achieved through ongoing proactive communication including up to date information posted on the Board's website as well as Facebook and twitter. Our agency measures success based on survey results and the reduction in the number of licensees found in violation of board rules and statutes.

The Board has two major components for regulation, one through the licensing process and the other being the enforcement arm of the agency. Each new exam candidate, reciprocity applicant, initial license applicant as well as licensed individuals are reviewed for compliance with the rules and statutes that guide our agency. We pride ourselves with complying with the rules and hold the profession to a high level integrity and ensuring they receive a fair process.

With regard to the enforcement side of the agency has implemented a two-tier system which allows the process to be much more efficient. For example, when a complaint is received in the Board office, it is reviewed by the enforcement team and a letter is sent out to the respondent for additional information. Once the additional information is received, the investigator compiles a brief report which is then provided to our 9 member Board of Accountancy Complaints Committee (BOACC) to determine if an investigation should be opened, or the matter can be closed. This system has tremendously helped our backlog of complaints.

The Board currently has one vacancy, which took effect on January 15, 2021. We will be recruiting for this position in the near future.

The reduction exercise provided in the budget binder takes into account that the Board has not had any travel expenses since last March 2020. While I anticipate there will be minimal travel the biennium, it will be far less than in the past. The Board has just recently completed work on a "virtual conference room" which uses both MS Teams and Zoom. I anticipate that the majority of our meetings will be conducted virtually in the future.

The Board has relied in the past on the ability to use contract investigators to supplement more complex cases. While this reduction is not ideal, in the fact that without the expertise of professionals on contract, the Board may need to delay other important investigations.

Kimberly Fast, Executive Director

Board of Accountancy