News for Immediate Release

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Accountancy Board Announces Amnesty Period for Never-Licensed Firms

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania State Board of Accountancy has enacted an amnesty program to allow never-licensed firms to voluntarily register and become licensed as required by the state's CPA Law.

Now through Dec. 31, 2012, firms that have never been licensed can voluntarily register and obtain licensure from the State Board of Accountancy without facing fines or any other disciplinary actions. Firms taking advantage of this amnesty period will only have to pay the registration fee.

"Pennsylvania citizens and businesses are protected when accountancy firms register with and are licensed by the State Board of Accountancy," said Katie True, commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

This bureau within the Department of State licenses and oversees 29 professions, including Certified Public Accountants and Accountancy Firms. True said the department recently learned a number of firms were unaware the law requires them to be licensed by the state.

"Firms licensed by the State Board of Accountancy must meet the board's high standards and, like CPAs, adhere to the laws and regulations governing the practice of accounting," True said. "The vast majority of accountants and accountancy firms do this, but through the licensing and registration process, the board can take action to protect the public when firms violate the industry's standards of practice."

When filing amnesty applications, firms will be required to sign a declaration certifying that they are eligible to participate in the amnesty program. Firms with lapsed licenses are not eligible for amnesty.

For more information about who is required to register, visit www.dos.state.pa.us, then click on "Licensing," "Business-Related Boards," and "State Board of Accountancy," or call 717-783-1404.

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