



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

BRUCE RAUNER
Governor

BRYAN A. SCHNEIDER
Secretary

JAY STEWART
Director

Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation Division of Professional Regulation Tax Return Preparation Task Force Minutes

Date: September 23, 2015

Call to Order: 10:04 am – Jay Stewart, Chairperson

Location: IDFP – Division of Professional Regulation
100 W Randolph, 9th Floor Room 9-171A
Chicago, IL 60601

Board Members Present: Jay Stewart, Chairperson; Stephen W. DeFilippis, Member; Geoffrey Harlow, Member; Andrew Jennison, Member (via phone); Senator John Mulroe, Member (via phone); Jim Nichelson, Member; Michael T. Specha, Member

Board Member(s) Absent: Representative Natalie Manley, Member

Staff Members Present: Martha Reggi, Associate General Counsel; Aaron Curry, Law Clerk

Guests: Dick Lockhart, Independent Accountants Association of Illinois; Dan Setters, Independent Accountants Association of Illinois; Paul Harrison, Center for Economic Progress; John Ams, National Society of Accountants; Rhonda Kodjayan, Illinois Board of Examiners

Via phone: Marty Green, Illinois CPA Society; James McTigue & Libby Mixon, GAO; Steve Haworth, National Society of Accountants

Topic	Discussion	Action
Motion to Allow Members to Attend via phone		<p>A motion was made by Harlow / seconded by DeFilippis to allow Mulroe to attend by phone due to employment pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7 of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>A motion was made by Stewart / seconded by Nichelson to allow Mulroe to attend by phone due to employment pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7 of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
Roll Call	<p>Jay Stewart, present Stephen W. DeFilippis, present Geoffrey Harlow, present Andrew Jennison, present via phone Representative Natalie Manley, absent Senator John Mulroe, present via phone Jim Nichelson, present Michael T. Specha, present</p>	
Introductions	<p>Each Task Force member, Department staff, and guest introduced themselves.</p>	
Approval of August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes		<p>A motion was made by DeFilippis / seconded by Harlow to approve the August 20, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
Analysis of Task Force Action	<p>Chairperson Stewart reviewed the meetings that have taken place to date and reviewed the agenda.</p> <p><u>Guests James McTigue & Libby Mixon, U.S. Government Accountability Office</u> Mr. McTigue and Ms. Mixon reviewed the U.S. GAO's undercover studies regarding paid tax preparers, the history of the IRS' regulation of paid tax preparers, and an analysis of the status of the current legislative climate in this area. Mr. McTigue and Ms. Mixon answered Task Force member inquiries regarding the U.S. GAO's</p>	

	<p>studies.</p> <p><u>Guests John Ams & Steve Haworth, National Society of Accountants</u> Mr. Ams and Mr. Haworth discussed the National Society of Accountant’s position regarding the regulation of paid tax preparers in Illinois, including an analysis of minimal competency standards, possible examinations, and potential continuing education requirements. Mr. Ams and Mr. Haworth answered inquiries from the Task Force regarding NSA’s position.</p> <p><u>Guest Paul Harrison, Center for Economic Progress</u> Mr. Harrison explained the purpose and role of the Center for Economic Progress and identified various problems for the Center’s clients. Mr. Harrison answered inquiries from the Task Force regarding the Center’s services.</p>	
Old Business	<p>In response to prior Task Force member requests, Task Force member Nichelson reviewed the Illinois Department of Revenue’s complaints regarding paid tax preparers and criminal investigations against paid tax preparers.</p> <p>In response to prior Task Force member requests, the Illinois CPA Society provided its written position paper regarding the scope of the regulation of tax preparers in Illinois. Marty Green briefly summarized the position.</p> <p>The Task Force reviewed remaining future guests. The Task Force plans to meet in October and November. Stewart reviewed the Task Force’s December 1, 2015 report deadline and the process for reviewing the Task Force’s report and recommendation.</p> <p>Travel vouchers were distributed to Task Force members.</p>	
Adjournment		<p>There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by DeFilippis / seconded by Specha to adjourn at 12:18 pm. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

