



GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

Important Firm Licensing Information

June 20, 2014

To All Licensed Georgia CPA Firms:

This email is being sent on behalf of the Georgia State Board of Accountancy (GSBA) which is currently housed in the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards (PLB) Division. The PLB Division experienced a major server malfunction on June 17th that resulted in a system-wide service interruption that directly impacted the processing of CPA firm license renewals. This issue was felt across all of the professions that fall under the PLB Division and resulted in major frustration for those attempting to renew. Due to the lingering IT issues at the PLB Division, the **GSBA has decided to extend the CPA firm license renewal deadline from June 30, 2014 to August 31, 2014**. There will be no late penalty assessments during this two-month extension of the firm license renewal deadline.

Additionally, due to legislation that passed during the 2014 legislative session, the GSBA is in the process of transitioning from a licensing board within the Secretary of State's PLB Division to operating as an attached agency of the State Accounting Office, effective July 1, 2014. Once this transition takes place, there will be changes to the Board's contact information and internet address. All records and data will begin transferring electronically to the GSBA at midnight on June 30, 2014; however, the GSBA will not have operational access to its new licensing system for at least two weeks. As of July 1, 2014, you will reach the GSBA at its new location and via new contact information; however, please keep in mind the GSBA will not have access to any records or information in its database until July 14th, at the earliest.

Firm Licensure Recommendations

The GSBA is recommending the following regarding the renewal process for CPA Firms licensed in Georgia:

- If you have already completed your firm renewal, and the Secretary of State's website confirms that you are renewed, you are fine and have nothing further to do. (You can verify your firm's renewal is complete here: <http://verify.sos.ga.gov/websites/verification/Search.aspx?facility=Y>)
- If you are in the process of renewing your firm license with the Secretary of State's Office (i.e., you have already submitted one or more of the following -- your application, payment, affidavit, or peer review form), please try to complete the process with them as quickly as possible and prior to June 30th in order to help alleviate any confusion during the transition period.
- If you have not begun your firm renewal process as of today, please hold off filing your renewal application until you hear further from the GSBA. The Board will make an announcement when the transition is complete, the new licensing system is operational, and renewals are ready to be received and processed, again

Contact Information During the Transition

Questions through June 30, 2014:

Mr. Darren Mickler
Executive Director, Secretary of State's Office
Professional Licensing Boards Division
dmickler@sos.ga.gov
478-207-2440

Questions beginning July 1, 2014:

Georgia State Board of Accountancy
200 Piedmont Avenue
1604 West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
GSBA@sao.ga.gov
404-463-0365

Thank you for your patience during this process. We are working diligently to ensure the GSBA's move and operational transition is completed as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Julian Deal

Julian I. Deal, C.P.A.
Chairman
Georgia State Board of Accountancy

