

**542.2 Legislative intent.**

It is the policy of this state, and the purpose of [this chapter](#), to promote the reliability of information that is used for guidance in financial transactions or for accounting for or assessing the financial status or performance of commercial, noncommercial, and governmental enterprises. The reliance of the public in general and of the business community in particular on sound financial reporting imposes on persons engaged in such practice certain obligations both to their clients and to the public. These obligations, which [this chapter](#) is intended to enforce, include the obligation to maintain independence in thought and action, to strive continuously to improve one's professional skills, to observe where applicable generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards, to promote sound and informative financial reporting, to hold the affairs of clients in confidence, and to maintain high standards of personal conduct in all matters affecting one's fitness to practice public accountancy. The public interest requires that persons professing special competence in accountancy or offering assurance as to the reliability or fairness of presentation of such information shall have demonstrated their qualifications to do so, and that persons who have not demonstrated and maintained such qualifications not be permitted to represent themselves as having such special competence or to offer such assurance; that the conduct of persons licensed as having special competence in accountancy be regulated in all aspects of their professional work; that a public authority competent to prescribe and assess the qualifications and to regulate the conduct of licensees be established; and that the use of titles that have a capacity or tendency to deceive the public as to the status or competence of the persons using such titles be prohibited.

[2001 Acts, ch 55, §2, 38](#)