

Final Exam (Part 2)

Question 2

Which of the following statement(s) is/are true:

- A. The current Minnesota Legislative Auditor is a CPA.
- B. Minnesota State Statute requires the Legislative Auditor to be a CPA.
- C. The U.S. Comptroller General, director of the Government Accountability Office (GAO, formally known as the General Accounting Office) has to be a CPA.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

C. Incorrect:

Currently, there are no requirements in place setting any qualifications for U.S. Comptroller General.

The Comptroller General position has been vacant since March 2008 when former Comptroller General David Walker, who was a CPA, resigned to become president of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. The previous Comptroller General, Charles Bowsher, also was a CPA. Bowsher was appointed in 1981 and served a full term of 15 years. The current acting Comptroller General, Gene Dodaro, is not a CPA, but he holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa.

The American Institute of CPAs said it strongly supports recently introduced legislation requiring the Comptroller General, who leads the Government Accountability Office, to be a CPA.

Reps. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and Mike Conaway, R-Texas, who are both CPAs, introduced the bill, H.R. 4410, Dec. 19, 2009, in the House.

The bill would require that the Comptroller General be a licensed CPA, and that he or she meet several minimum qualifications, such as significant management experience, including experience in government service; significant government accounting and auditing experience; a post-graduate degree; and professional accreditation issued by a professional association.

"The Comptroller General should always be a professionally qualified person who will lead the GAO effectively as an advocate for taxpayers and a steward of federal resources," said AICPA president and CEO Barry Melancon.

To read the article, go to [WebCPA \(12/28\)](#). For more on the bill, go to [SmartBrief](#).

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