

May 4, 2018

The Honorable Daniel Martiny, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & International Affairs
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Email: martinyd@legis.la.gov; scom@legisl.la.gov

Dear Chairman Martiny,

I am writing to you today as CEO of ISACA, a global association of more than 160,000 IT assurance, security and governance professionals. We are concerned with Louisiana HB 748 and the detrimental impact it would have on information and cyber security professionals throughout Louisiana.

ISACA certifications are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under the International Standard ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024:2012. Organizations around the world rely on ISACA certifications as an impartial tool for identifying candidates who have both the knowledge and experience they need. Within Louisiana's public and private sectors, this holds true as well; even as we write to you, a quick review of job postings on Indeed.com indicates that the [Louisiana Legislative Auditor](#) is looking for candidates for the position of [IT Staff Auditor](#) that possess certifications such as those offered by ISACA.

Earning an ISACA certification is a rigorous process. Candidates must pass the certification exam, demonstrate multi-year, proven experience, comply with the continuing education requirements, and adhere to a Code of Professional Ethics. For employers, having outside validation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of professionals—prior to hiring those professionals—is a benefit that pays dividends in lessened training costs and shorter adjustment periods for new hires. Those benefits, in turn, can lead to increased production or, in the case of security professionals, increased cybersecurity resilience and enterprise protection.

ISACA's portfolio of experience-based certifications has made ISACA a global leader in business technology certifications. More importantly, however, technology professionals throughout Louisiana who hold ISACA certifications are impacting Louisiana's private and public sectors every day. By reducing the value of professional certifications, this bill demeans the value of those professionals as contributors to Louisiana's progress.

ISACA's concern is that the provisions within HB 748 prohibiting individuals with a recognized certification from using the term "certified" as a title sets the Louisiana's technical professional community down a dangerous path. Because of these concerns, ISACA would suggest the amendment of HB 748 to eliminate those provisions, or the withdrawal of the bill from consideration.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further and to share with you our certification program. Please contact Jennifer Gremmels, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, jgremmels@isaca.org.

About ISACA

ISACA helps global professionals lead, adapt and assure trust in an evolving digital world by offering innovative and world-class knowledge, standards, networking, credentialing and career development. Established in 1969, ISACA is a global nonprofit association representing approximately 160,000 information and cybersecurity professionals throughout the world. As part of ISACA's efforts to support the global IT professional community, ISACA offers COBIT®, a business framework to govern enterprise technology, and the Cybersecurity Nexus™ (CSX), a holistic cybersecurity resource to assist organizations in developing skilled cyber workforces and enabling individuals to grow and advance their cyber careers.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop legislation that will benefit all hard-working professionals in Louisiana.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Loeb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Loeb, CGEIT, CAE, FASAE

Chief Executive Officer

cc: Senator Mack White, Vice Chairman
Senator R. L. Allain, II
Senator Conrad Appel
Senator Page Cortez
Senator Beth Mizell
Senator Barrow Peacock
Senator Jonathon Perry
Senator Francis Thompson
Stacy DeLaney, Committee Secretary
Michelle Ridge, Senior Attorney

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