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In order to be responsive to the latest legislative developments, MOCPA continually monitors proposed legislation. The society utilizes both professional and grassroots lobbyists to ensure the CPA profession has a voice in Jefferson City. By keeping members informed, MOCPA is empowering you to contribute to the legislative process.

Update provided by Chuck Pierce, CPA, MOCPA government relations consultant

Session Update

Last week was a short one in the Missouri Legislature in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The week focused on Governor Parson's State of the State address and the passage of redistricting by the House.

The governor delivered his State of the State to a joint session of the House and Senate. The bulk of his speech focused on his budget priorities as the state looks at ways to spend an unprecedented amount of state and federal dollars. Some of the priorities highlighted by Governor Parson included:

- \$57 million on workforce development;
- Raising the starting pay for K-12 teachers to \$38,000 per year;
- \$470 million for higher education capital improvement projects;
- \$100 million to improve lettered highways and other low-volume roads;
- \$400 million for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems; and
- \$400 million for broadband expansion projects.

[Click here](#) for more details from Governor Parson's speech.

The House passed its version of congressional redistricting. The debate was vigorous, and several alternatives were offered as amendments. With a vote of 85 in favor (82 votes are required for a bill to pass), the House adopted what is referred to as a 6-2 map, which closely aligns with the current Congressional districts. Although it approved the districts, the House failed to get the two-thirds majority necessary to adopt the emergency clause. There is substantial

debate in the Capitol over whether the emergency clause is needed. Without it, any legislation signed by the governor would be effective August 28, after the August 3 primary election.

The map now goes to the Senate for approval. Immediately after the House passed the map, several Republican Senators were critical of it. They wanted a plan that was more favorable to Republicans, what is referred to as a 7-1 map. Senate Democrats are firmly opposed to this. Most expect the Senate debate on this issue to be even more intense than the House debate. Because of recent changes to the Senate rules on breaking a filibuster, the debate could also be lengthy.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are filed daily, and the list is updated each week. Be sure to check the list regularly to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

For Additional Information

This *Government Advocacy Update* will continue weekly through the legislative session. If you have any questions on MOCPA's government advocacy efforts, please visit the [Web page](#), or contact [Dena Hull](#) at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

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