

January 7, 2019

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

The 2019 legislative session begins on Wednesday. This year is the first of the two-year session, which means most of Wednesday will be spent on ceremonial activities. The new legislators will take their oath of office, and then members of the Legislature will spend a lot of time with constituents and family members, and attend a legislative ball.

That is not to say there won't also be legislative activities. The pre-filing of legislation has been going on for more than a month, and a lot of bills have been filed. These all must be "read in" to the official record. Because it is a new session, committee membership and chairmanships change.

This is also the first year for interaction between the Legislature and Governor Parson. So far, this has been a very good relationship, which contrasts starkly the friction last session between Governor Greitens and the Legislature. Most of the Capitol denizens are predicting this cordial relationship to continue. If it does, it could result in a smooth and productive legislative session.

The session runs until mid-May, so it is much too early to predict what will pass. However, it is clear already that this will be a year with a lot of activity of interest to Missouri CPAs. Based on pre-filed legislation, here are some of the items that MOCPA will be focusing on:

- Supporting a change to the peer review statute to bring it in line with the AICPA requirements for reporting to the Missouri State Board of Accountancy.
- Working to adopt state standards for implementation of the new partnership audit requirements at the federal level.
- Monitoring tax bills closely and providing technical advice as appropriate. There have already been several tax bills filed.
- Collaborating with other business groups to modify or defeat legislation that would place additional human resource requirements on businesses, including CPA firms.

The Legislature will also have to deal with changes based on measures passed or rejected by the voters in November. Voters approved a measure that places much stricter limits on gifts legislators can accept from outside groups. The limit is so minimum that groups like MOCPA must rethink how they conduct grassroots events. The practice of hosting receptions, or any food events, has effectively been eliminated. This will have a profound effect on the Capitol environment.

Voters also approved the use of medical marijuana in the state. The Legislature and state agencies must establish guidance on how this provision is to be implemented. This is an area that potentially impacts CPAs, so MOCPA will be working on various strategies to ensure CPAs who choose to provide services to this new industry are adequately protected.

Voters rejected a tax increase to fund transportation infrastructure. This remains a high priority for the state and is generally supported by all business groups. There is not a clear indication of how, or if, the Legislature will be able to craft a viable solution. There is very little support for a tax increase, so this could make for creative means to create funding. One item being discussed that impacts CPAs is to make changes to the sales tax statute to expand nexus in line with the *Wayfair* decision. The increase in revenues caused by this change would then be targeted for transportation funding.

As you can see, it is going to be a busy session. MOCPA needs your help. There are many new legislators and new committee chairs that we need to establish relationships with. The best way to do that is in person at CPA Day on Jan. 23 in Jefferson City. You will hear first-hand from legislative leaders and have a chance to visit personally with legislators from your area. [Click here](#) to learn more or to register.

If you can't make CPA Day but have an interest in serving as a keyperson, please let us know. MOCPA is also working on expanding the database to include information of members who have a personal or professional relationship with a legislator. If you have a social, business, or personal connection with a member of the Legislature, please also let us know by contacting Dena Hull at dhull@mocpa.org.

Legislation of Interest

There has been a large volume of legislation prefiled. This creates a bit of a backlog in getting bill information available online. MOCPA will have a list of current legislation of interest to CPAs on its website next week.

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.

Related Links

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