

*Protecting Your Interests*

February 24, 2020

*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**

Most of the legislative work last week was behind the scenes. There was limited floor debate. The Legislature spent most of the week working in committee meetings.

Legislative activity is a balance between open floor debate and voting, and the work done by committees. Bills are introduced on the floor then assigned to a committee. The committee must hold a hearing on the bill and vote it out before it can be taken up on the floor.

Because the rules prohibit committees from meeting during the times the House or Senate is in session, the schedule is a balancing act between time spent in general session and time spent in committees. The past few weeks have been shortened due to a combination of holidays and inclement weather. This has caused a backlog of bills in the committees. Both chambers worked to correct that balance last week and the hearing schedule was full. Look for that schedule to balance out a little more this week.

One item this week that may distract from regular activities is the start of candidate filing for this year's election. The filing period opens on Feb. 25 (Tuesday) and closes on March 31. All House of Representative seats and one-half of the Senate seats are up for election this year. Incumbents seeking re-election generally try to register on the first day to make their intentions official as soon as possible in the hopes of discouraging challengers.

## **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are introduced regularly and added to the list. Be sure to check the list often 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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