

Protecting Your Interests

February 3, 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

Last week, both chambers focused heavily on committee work. The Senate had its first taste of extended debate, and lost another member to a gubernatorial appointment. There was action in both chambers on MOCPA priority legislation.

This early in the session, both chambers are focused on hearing bills in committee. Because this is the first step in the legislative process, until bills are voted out of committee, legislators don't have any legislation to debate on the floor. Committees in both chambers were busy last week. These bills should start hitting the calendars this week. Because there are not many of them, look for the non-controversial measures to come up for debate and vote quickly.

One of the more controversial measures of the session got a first run at debate in the Senate last week. Those of you who attended CPA Day heard Senator Hoskins, CPA, talk about the legislation to revise the Clean Missouri initiative passed by voters in 2018. Dubbed "Cleaner Missouri" by the sponsor, the measure would ask the voters to revise parts of the initiative they approved in 2018. There are strong opinions on both sides of this issue. That was apparent last week when the legislation came up on the floor of the Senate. Debate lasted until 3 a.m. on Thursday with no resolution. The legislation was placed on the informal calendar. It is likely to take several marathon sessions in the Senate to get this measure passed.

The Senate became smaller last week as Governor Parson appointed Senator Romine to the State Tax Commission. He is in the last session of his last term, so his seat will be vacant until next session. You may recall that the governor had previously appointed Senators Curls and Holsman, who were also in their last terms, to other positions. That leaves the Senate three senators short of a full roster. That shouldn't significantly impact the outcome of votes because Republicans still have a significant majority. However, Senator Romine chaired the Education Committee, and the choice of who succeeds him to chair that important committee could significantly impact legislation.

There was action last week on several of MOCPA's priority legislation. [HB 1734](#), the Partnership Audit Bill, was heard in the House Ways and Means Committee, and the senate companion, [SB 704](#), was referred to committee. [SB 703](#), the Peer Review Bill, was also referred to committee.

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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