

March 19, 2018

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 marked the halfway point of the legislative session. This week, legislators are on spring break. At this midway mark, the Legislature appears to be making substantial progress despite the distractions of the various investigations of Governor Greitens. Tax reform, while a long way from final, appears to be making progress in both chambers.

When the news of the allegations and indictment of the governor were announced, many thought this would significantly disrupt the flow of legislation. This has not proven to be the case. For the most part, both chambers have been business as usual. The credit for this goes to House Speaker Todd Richardson and Senate Pro Tem Ron Richard who have kept their chambers focused on the business before them each day.

The House has passed what many believe to be a record 158 bills so far this session. They have also finished the mark up of the budget and are likely to take the budget bills up on the floor when they return from spring break. At the halfway point, the House is slightly ahead of where they would be expected to be even in a normal year.

The success of the Senate is gauged not so much by the number of bills but by how efficiently it can tackle tough issues. The biggest impediment to a successful Senate is the amount of time members get bogged down in debating controversial legislation. While the Senate has had some digressions into filibusters and stalling, it has avoided any complete shutdowns or impasses. At the halfway point, the Senate has successfully worked through several tough issues. Senators passed a utility reform measure that had been stalled in the Senate for each of the last two sessions. They also resolved historically tough issues like revisions to the historic tax credits, virtual schools, and industrial hemp. Although not finished, the Senate has been able to debate various tort and tax reform bills without coming to a shutdown.

In all, it's going better than most expected. However, it is the second half that makes or breaks the session. It really doesn't matter how successful the first half is if things come to a screeching halt at the end.

Tax reform continues to be a focus in both chambers. Last week, the Senate spent some time debating its tax reform bill, [SB 617](#). While no votes were taken, the tone and direction of the debate

was clearly aimed at testing concepts and working toward a consensus. The House voted its tax reform bill, [HB 2540](#), out of both the Ways and Means and Rules committees. Look for these bills to get floor time in their respective chambers shortly after the Legislature returns from spring break. Each of these bills are more than 300 pages, so expect the debate to be lengthy.

Legislation of Interest

To view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking, along with their most recent activity and current status, [click here](#). The following bills had significant activity this week:

[HB 1381](#), establishing procedures relating to financial accreditation standards for insurance companies and an insurance group's corporate governance, was voted do pass by the Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking.

[HB 1464](#), authorizing telephone companies to elect to have their tangible personal property assessed in accordance with a depreciation schedule, was voted do pass by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

[HB 1656](#), establishing the "Professional Employer Organization Act," passed the House 126 to 3.

[HB 1719](#), specifying that an oversight body shall not deny a person 18 years of age or older a license on the basis of age, passed the House 136 to 3.

[HB 1831](#), changing the laws regarding the sales tax holiday that occurs in early August by adding an exemption for disposable diapers, passed the House 138 to 3.

[HB 1879](#), changing the laws regarding financial transactions by public entities, was voted do pass by the Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking.

[SB 600](#), enacting new provisions relating to professional employer organizations, passed the Senate 28 to 3.

For Additional Information

Because the Legislature is on spring break this week, there will not be a *Government Advocacy Update* on Monday, March 26. Look for the next update on April 3.

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

- Attend the Legislation and Government Advocacy [Committee Meeting](#) on May 18
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