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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

The Senate took up tort reform last week resulting in 20-hour filibuster before a compromise was worked out. The House advanced a bill on voter identification. Discussions on the best solution for establishing economic nexus are continuing.

On Tuesday, the Senate took up legislation that changed the process for claimants of civil damages for exposure to asbestos. It was immediately clear that Democrats opposed the measure and they began to filibuster the legislation. One of the great mysteries of the Senate is how a filibuster will end. Options are working out a compromise, one side giving in, or the use of a parliamentary procedure to shut off debate. The first two options generally produce an amicable solution. The third option results in hard feelings that impact the flow of legislation for weeks afterward.

After a 20-hour filibuster, a solution was worked out that was a combination compromise and concession. The asbestos bill was placed on the informal calendar ending debate. The Senate immediately went to a different tort reform bill, one dealing with punitive damages. Although this bill had also been deemed to be controversial, it passed along party lines with out controversy. To folks who follow the Missouri Senate, this made perfect sense. To others, such an outcome may seem odd.

The House passed a bill last week tightening the voter identification law. Two years ago, voters approved requiring a photo ID for voting. Provisions were made in the original legislation to allow persons without an ID to vote if they completed an affidavit. The court ruled the affidavit to be unconstitutional. The House passed legislation that addressed the court decision.

Talks continue among legislators and the governor's office on the best method for the state to establish economic nexus. These discussions are dealing with technical issues such as the definition of nexus, the use of certified service providers, and how marketplace facilitators should be treated. They are also focused on policy issues like what the state should do with the money, and what impact passage should have on local governments. The discussions on the technical issues seem to be reaching consensus. Not so much for the policy issues. These discussions are occurring in person rather than by changing legislation. For these reasons, none of the legislation on this subject

accurately reflects what the final product is likely to look like. MOCPA is monitoring this issue closely and will report when a consensus document is available.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking, along with their most recent activity and current status. Be sure to check the list often for updates to 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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