

March 5, 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

The governor's situation continued to be the primary focus of discussion last week. Both chambers tried to work past the distraction and focus on advancing legislation. The Senate had another indication of future slowdowns. The major Capitol renovation project begins this week, which will make parking at the Capitol even worse than normal.

The Capitol information cycle was overloaded with news about Governor Greitens. There were daily media stories that spurred dozens of comments on social media. The highly active Capitol rumor mill was in high gear all week. The House has decided to get past the media reports and rumors and conduct its own investigation into the governor's indictment. The House unanimously passed a resolution establishing a committee to investigate the facts surrounding the indictment. The resolution was clear that the purpose of the committee is to conduct an investigation and report the results to the entire House within 40 days. The committee has broad investigative authority, including the ability to subpoena witnesses. This is a clear sign that the House takes the matter seriously but is not going to draw conclusions based upon media stories and rumors. The established deadline means the report will be delivered to the House at the end of session. Because the majority of legislation actually passes in the last two weeks, devoting House floor time to review and debate of this report could adversely impact a lot of legislation.

The Senate hit a snag that could signal a slowdown in the process as well. The Senate manages floor time in a much different manner than the House. Senate leadership decides how much time an issue is allowed to be debated on the floor. Because the use of parliamentary procedures to halt the debate are not frequently used, opponents to a bill will often engage in protracted debate to stall progress hoping to use up the bill's allotted time without the issue coming to a vote.

This tactic took an unusual twist last week. When a tort reform bill was taken up Wednesday night, two of the Senators who were opposed to it not only took to the floor to delay but said they would keep score of how much time was spent on the bill. For any amount of time the bill was allowed to be debated beyond the time they thought was reasonable, they would tie up the floor on other bills. By the time the debate was halted, the tally was four minutes of stalling debate for every motion made the rest of the session. If the Senators try to execute this strategy, the Senate would move at snail's pace the rest of the session. It is unlikely that Senate leadership or the rest of the majority caucus will

tolerate that, but what remains to be seen is what they would do about it, and what impact any actions would have.

If you have ever visited the Capitol during session, you know that parking nearby is in short supply. The Capitol begins a much-needed restoration project this week that is expected to take almost two years. As part of the project, the south lawn has been converted to a staging area for equipment, and the south circle drive has been closed to traffic. The construction removes approximately 70 visitor and staff parking spots. If you have plans to visit the Capitol during session, allocate extra time for finding a parking spot and be prepared to walk.

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 1288](#), extending the sunset for the Champion for Children Tax Credit and modifying provisions of a tax credit for donations to maternity homes, passed the House 121 to 27.

[SB 806](#), modifying various provisions regarding guardianship and conservator proceedings, passed the Senate 33 to 0.

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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