

March 9, 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**

The House held a special committee meeting to be briefed on Missouri's readiness for the Coronavirus. Another special House committee continues to investigate the process of awarding medical marijuana licenses. The *Wayfair* debate in the Senate was delayed due to a protracted debate on economic development legislation.

In response to the spread of the Coronavirus, the House has established the Special Committee on Disease Control and Prevention. Last week, the committee heard testimony from the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) director and infectious disease experts from the University of Missouri. Governor Parson also met with his cabinet officials. At this point, the hearing and meeting were informational only as the disease has yet to be a major issue in Missouri.

The DHSS has also been the focus of the House Special Committee on Government Oversight. The committee continued its investigation into the awarding of medical marijuana licenses. The committee has grilled employees of the department. In short, there were many more applicants than licenses awarded, and the application fees were non-refundable. The state contracted with a third-party to evaluate and score the applications. These factors add up to a lot of unhappy applicants who lost substantial amounts of money on submitting applications and are now crying foul. So much so that in addition to dealing with the legislative inquiry, the department has had to issue a request for proposals for legal services to deal with the flood of litigation.

On Wednesday, the Senate was scheduled to begin debate on [SB 648](#), which is most likely the Senate's consensus *Wayfair* bill at this point. Before going to that bill, the Senate started debate on an economic development bill. Several senators voiced opposition to the bill because it establishes another tax credit program. Rather than lay the bill over to work out the details, the senators hammered out the details with the bill still on the floor. This debate took 10 hours, ending at midnight. It is not clear at this point when the Senate may carve out time to take up the *Wayfair* issue.

### **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The deadline for filing bills has passed, but as they are amended, new bills may be added to the list. Be sure to check the list regularly to look 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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