



Government Advocacy Update

Protecting Your Interests



June 4, 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

Although the Legislature adjourned on May 18, the session officially ended on May 30. This is the deadline for House and Senate leaders to officially sign all legislation that passed and formally send it to the governor. As has happened most of the session, the legislative action was overshadowed by the controversy surrounding the governor.

In what was a surprise to almost everyone, Governor Greitens held a press conference late Tuesday afternoon to announce that he would resign 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1. Many legislative leaders had urged him to resign. Until Tuesday, he had steadfastly refused any calls for resignation. Although there is much speculation, it is not clear what sparked the change of events.

Upon the governor's resignation, the office is automatically filled by the lieutenant governor. Mike Parson was officially given the oath of office in a private ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. While Greiten's resignation removes uncertainty concerning his fate, it creates a lot of uncertainty on the legislative process at the end of the session.

As expected, legislative leadership signed all truly agreed and finally passed bills. Governor Greitens exercised his authority on the last day and signed 77 bills before he resigned. This is more than one-half of all the bills passed by the Legislature. These bills will become law, and the Legislature cannot do anything to impact that.

Governor Parson has until July 14 to take action on the remaining legislation. Any legislation he doesn't sign or veto, automatically becomes law at that point. As lieutenant governor, Parson presided over the Senate, so he is familiar with the legislation. He will still have to take a different view of this as governor. The first priority has to be the budget bills, which must be adopted by June 30. With strong legislative majorities of the same party, Parson is not likely to disagree philosophically with the legislation, but as governor, he will have to also take a broader technical view of the legislation.

This process of technical review of legislation is typically done by the governor's staff and the staff of impacted state departments. It is not clear at this point who all those people may be. It is unlikely that Parson retains Greiten's key staff. He will be assembling his own team. How deep that will go and how long it will take is

unclear at this time. Significant delays in assembling the team charged with reviewing legislation could create a time crunch in the review process.

Another area of uncertainty is how the change in management styles will impact the process. As governor, Greitens had maintained a very adversarial style with the Legislature. Parson, having served in both chambers, will likely be much more of a consensus builder. This should dramatically change the mood of the Legislature. It could also go a long way to smoothing out the process of bill review. Having a relationship with the legislators who sponsored the legislation, Parson may feel comfortable relying heavily on the strength of the process to vet the legislation. As a result, we may see a lot of the legislation signed or allowed to become law without controversy.

As governor, Parson must also very quickly address some appointments to two high-profile boards. Because of controversy surrounding appointments made by Greitens, both the State Board of Education and the Missouri Housing Development Commission lack enough members to conduct business. Because both of these groups are charged with decisions that impact expenditure of hundreds of millions of state dollars, Parson is expected to act quickly to fill the vacancies.

It is also not clear what will happen to the vacant lieutenant governor spot. Although there is past precedent of the governor appointing someone to fill a vacancy, the law is not clear. One of the new governor's first challenges will be deciding how to handle finding and naming his replacement. Because the lieutenant governor technically presides over the Senate, this decision could impact the flow of legislation and the functioning of the Senate during the interim.

Although he is no longer governor, Greiten's situation may still impact the legislative process. Technically, the Legislature is still convened in a Special Session for purposes of investigating Greitens. It is not clear if the House will drop this process and adjourn. Greitens also faces a lawsuit regarding his use of an app that automatically deletes text messages. Use of such an app for public messages may be a violation of the state's open records law.

Legislation of Interest

In his final day in office, Governor Greitens signed the following bills into law that MOCPA was tracking:

[HB 1250](#)—Sponsor: *Plocher (R-89); Dixon (R-30)*—Establishes the Missouri Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act, which allows fiduciaries to access electronic records of the account holder.

[HB 1446](#)—Sponsor: *Eggleston (R-2); Sater (R-29)*—Modifies provisions relating to non-election successions in certain political subdivisions.

[HB 1465](#)—Sponsor: *Cookson (R-153); Wasson (R-20)*—Modifies various provisions relating to degree offerings at public institutions of higher education.

[HB 1500](#)—Sponsor: *Dogan (R-98); Koenig (R-15)*—Modifies provisions relating to the practice of cosmetology and barbering.

[HB 1503](#)—Sponsor: *Dohrman (R-51); Hoskins (R-21)* Establishes a fund for providing state-guaranteed small business loans to veterans.

[HB 1719](#)—Sponsor: *Grier (R-100); Riddle (R-10)*—Specifies that an oversight body shall not deny a person 18 years of age or older a license on the basis of age.

[HB 1858](#)—Sponsor: *Christofanelli (R-105); Eigel (R-23)*—Requires the Department of Revenue to feature a map of all special taxing districts on its website.

[HB 1879](#)—Sponsor: *Fraker (R-137); Cunningham (R-33)*—Changes the laws regarding financial transactions by public entities.

[SB 573](#)—Sponsor: *Wallingford (R-27); Davis (R-162)*—Modifies several provisions relating to the armed services.

[SB 590](#)—Sponsor: *Hegeman (R-12); Rehder (R-148)*—Modifies the Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

[SB 629](#)—Sponsor: *Wasson (R-20); Rehder (R-148)*—Modifies provisions relating to tax increment financing.

[SB 768](#)—Sponsor: *Hoskins (R-21); Berry (R-38)*—Allows telephone companies to select an alternate method of property tax assessment.

[SB 802](#)—Sponsor: *Nasheed (D-5); Evans (R-99)*—Modifies provisions relating to women's and minority business enterprises.

[SB 806](#)—Sponsor: *Crawford (R-28); Neely (R-8)*—Modifies various provisions regarding guardianship and conservator proceedings.

[SB 843](#)—Sponsor: *Riddle (R-10); Ross (R-142)*—Modifies the composition, duties or repeals outright certain administrative boards, commissions, and councils.

[SB 882](#)—Sponsor: *Hoskins (R-21); Bernskoetter (R-59)*—Modifies provisions of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program.

[SB 884](#)—Sponsor: *Koenig (R-15); Wiemann (R-103)*—Modifies provisions relating to taxation.

Please refer to [MOCPA's website](#) for a list of all the bills that have passed. Other than those bills listed above, the rest will be either signed, vetoed, or allowed to become law between now and July 14.

For Additional Information

This is the last regular update of the session. During the interim, MOCPA will provide updates on an as-needed basis. Look for regular weekly updates to resume when the session begins in January.

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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