

January 22, 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

Due to the Monday holiday, last week was a short one for the Legislature. CPAs converged on the Capitol for MOCPA's annual CPA Day. Despite the short week, the Legislature began to exhibit signs that it was hoping to look past the distractions of the allegations against Governor Greitens and try to focus on business as usual. There is still no word on the details of the governor's budget or tax reform plan.

On Wednesday, a large group of CPAs from across the state descended on the Capitol. They received updates on legislation from Senator Denny Hoskins, CPA, were introduced in both chambers, met with legislators from their area, and delivered MOCPA's *Legislator Tax Guide*. The group included several first-time attendees as well as many veterans of the event. By all accounts, the day was a huge success with both CPAs and legislators. Many thanks to all who attended and helped communicate MOCPA's message. If you couldn't make it, please consider attending next year. In the meantime, if you would like to be involved in MOCPA's government advocacy efforts, please visit our [web page](#), or contact [Dena Hull](#) to learn ways that you can get involved.

One week after the governor's state of the state speech, there are still no details on either the budget or his tax reform plan. Both chambers began some preliminary hearings on the budget, but real work can't begin until the details are written into House bills. Many are expecting the budget to be released this week. There is no definitive word on when the details of the governor's tax plan will be released. If the tax plan impacts the fiscal year 2019 budget, we will have some idea of what it contains when the budget is released. Otherwise, we will have to wait for full details until the plan itself is made public.

While most of the work last week was done in committees, the House passed ethics reform legislation and sent it to the Senate. A similar bill was passed by the House early last session, but it faced a slow death due to lack of interest by the Senate. It remains to be seen if this bill will receive a different treatment by the Senate this year.

Committee Hearings of Interest

On Tuesday, the Senate Ways and Means Committee heard two bills of interest to Missouri CPAs—[SB 611](#) and [SB 617](#). Both make substantial changes to the tax code. Because the bills are very

complicated and have a large impact on the state's budget, they generated a lot of testimony. Very few witnesses were clearly for or against the entire bills. It was truly a smorgasbord of opinions. Witnesses frequently testified that they liked some parts, but not others, or vice versa. It is unlikely that either of these bills get out of committee intact. Most likely, components of both bills will be used to build compromise legislation on tax reform. MOCPA will continue to watch these bills closely.

Legislation of Interest

SB 829, which revises Missouri's accountancy law, was assigned to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. MOCPA continues to gather input on these changes and will likely have modifications to the bill before it is heard by the committee.

SB 897 is designed to bring Missouri into conformity with the new federal partnership audit rules. MOCPA is working with the Department of Revenue and the AICPA to develop the best approach. Because the federal audit rules have changed, Missouri has no choice but to make adjustments to its law. It is anticipated that the first of the audits will not occur until 2020 at the earliest.

Legislation of Interest

To view a list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking, along with their most recent activity and current status, [click here](#).

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

- Become a [Legislative Keyperson](#)
- Contribute to [MO CPA-PAC](#)

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe