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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 2022 legislative session began at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 5. The first week of session every year is generally uneventful. Leadership makes some remarks about their expectations for the session. Then the hundreds of pre-filed bills must be read into the record and placed on the calendar. Because the Legislature adjourns for the week on Thursday, there was not much time for other business. This year, the Legislature faces some deadlines on key issues that will necessitate they come back after the first week and hit the ground running. Tensions in the Senate leftover from previous sessions may impact the Legislature's ability to move legislation quickly.

The legislative session can be thought of as two semesters. Legislators take one week off at the half-way point in mid-March. Generally, very little legislation passes before the break, and most high-profile issues are passed in the final weeks.

This year, the following high-priority issues need to be passed before the Legislature leaves for spring break:

- **Congressional redistricting maps.** Legislation must be passed to redraw the congressional districts in response to population shifts reflected in the census. This needs to be done by the start of filing on Feb. 22. To take effect, any legislation passed would need an emergency clause, which requires a two-thirds majority vote in both chambers.
- **Funding for Medicaid expansion.** Voters approved the expansion of the

state's Medicaid system in 2020. Because the issue was the subject of litigation, the Legislature did not fund the additional cost. The court ruled the state must provide the additional services so the Legislature must pass a supplemental budget, or the system will run out of money.

· **Spending of COVID aid.** The state has received billions of dollars in federal COVID relief funds. Much of this aid has spending deadlines that occur before the start of the next budget year, so this also needs to be addressed in a supplemental budget.

In addition to these measures, there will be several other potentially controversial issues the Legislature is likely to take up concerning such things as vaccine mandates, COVID-related measures, education reform, and gun regulation.

All of this must take place with a Senate that is still trying to heal wounds from prior sessions. The last regular session, a special session and the veto session last year all ended with acrimony in the Senate. Most of the first day of this session was spent with several Senators airing those grievances. Some compromise and healing will need to occur in the Senate if legislation is going to pass on a fast track.

The impact of this on legislation of more interest to MOCPA members is not clear at this point. It is possible things become so stalemated that very little gets done. It is also possible, though, that differences are resolved in the interest of moving high-priority legislation and that carries over to the rest of the session. Either way, it is likely that most routine legislation will be passed by creating large omnibus bills late in the session.

MOCPA will monitor the progress closely and keep you informed of legislation of importance to the profession.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are filed daily, and the list is updated each week. 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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