

September 15, 2017

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 Missouri General Assembly met on Wednesday in the constitutionally required veto session. This is the Legislature's opportunity to override the governor's veto on any legislation from the 2017 session. Unlike recent veto sessions, no bills were overridden. However, the session was historic in other ways.

For the past eight years, Republicans have had the majority in both chambers, and the governor was a Democrat. The two groups frequently disagreed on matters of public policy and priorities, which often came to a head during veto session. Many sessions saw double-digit numbers of vetoes, with many of them being overturned by the Legislature. This session was much different. Republicans still control both chambers of the Legislature, but they now have a governor of the same party. The number of vetoes was low, and the Legislature only took a vote on one bill.

The only bill considered for a vote during veto session was [HCB 3](#). MOCPA tracked this bill because it included provisions to sweep several special revenue funds. The bill's primary purpose was to provide a mechanism to fund home health services for the disabled. During the session, there was bi-partisan support for the program but disagreement on where the funding should come from. This scenario continued during the veto session. HCB 3 was brought up for a vote and failed along party lines by a vote of 46 to 109.

Despite the overwhelming outcome of the vote, legislative leaders in both chambers pledged to continue to find a way to fund these services. A working group of House and Senate budget members were tasked with trying to come up with a solution. They are to report their recommendations by October. It is not clear yet if this solution will necessitate a third special session or if it can be handled without legislation.

The biggest issue of this veto session was not legislation but the conduct of two legislators. Representative Love and Senator Chappelle-Nadal have received much criticism for recent unrelated

controversial social media posts. In the House, a resolution was filed referring Representative Love's conduct to the House Ethics Commission for review. This committee will investigate the matter and recommend any disciplinary actions. There are a wide range of possible actions the House could take, but for now, the matter is unresolved.

The Senate took a stronger approach to its member. In a historic vote, the Senate voted 28 to 2 to censure Senator Chappelle-Nadal. No Senator has ever been officially censured, and it is not clear what the censure does. It was a strongly worded resolution that harshly criticized the Senator for her actions and encouraged her to resign. The resolution also held open the possibility of the Senator's expulsion at a future date. It was reported that many Senators favored expulsion. That vote however requires three-fourths of the Senators to vote in favor. The combination of the number of votes needed and the uncertainty of whether that matter could be taken up at a veto session is believed to have caused the Senate to stop short of expulsion.

For Additional Information

If you have any questions on MOCPA's government advocacy efforts, please visit the [website](#) or contact [Dena Hull](#) at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105. Further *Government Advocacy Updates* will be sent as needed.

Related Information

- Attend the Legislation and Government Advocacy Committee meeting—Sept. 29 at [Fall Committee Day](#)
- Save the date for [CPA Day](#) 2018—Jan. 17
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