



January 16, 2017

In order to be responsive to the latest legislative developments, the MSCPAs 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, the MSCPAs is empowering you to contribute to the legislative process.

Update provided by Chuck Pierce, CPA, MSCPAs government relations consultant

Session Update

The big event of this past week was the inauguration of the governor and other statewide officeholders. The ceremony began at noon on Monday, Jan. 9, on the Capitol steps and concluded late in the evening with the inaugural ball. Event security was noticeably higher than at previous inaugurations. The ball is often referred to as the Elected Officials' Prom. Most attendees dressed in black coat and tie or formal gowns. An event highlight was a performance by Missouri's own country music star Sara Evans. Once the festivities were over Monday, both the Legislature and the new governor hit the ground running for their first full week.

Having campaigned on a promise of change, Gov. Greitens began with several announcements on what will be different under his administration. On Monday, he signed an executive order banning any of his immediate staff from lobbying activities with his office if they leave employment. On Tuesday, he signed another executive order freezing new regulations and directing all departments to undertake a comprehensive review of all regulations. On Wednesday, he named the state's first ever chief operating officer. On Thursday, he held a press conference to announce the state's actions in anticipation of the impending ice storm. All-in-all, it was an active first week for the new governor.

The Legislature was equally busy last week. Leadership in both chambers had vowed to start on high priority legislation early, and they demonstrated that they were serious about it. The House advanced legislation on both ethics reform and right to work. The Senate held hearings on tort reform issues and right to work. Right to work legislation, one of the most controversial issues of recent years, will likely be debated on the floor this week.

Another change under the new Legislature and governor is enhanced security measures in the Capitol. Visitors to the Capitol must now pass through metal detectors and have their bags x-rayed. Firearms are prohibited. As a result, access to the Capitol is limited to only two doors. This has not yet caused extensive bottlenecks, but it is early. As the session progresses and more groups come to the Capitol, this is likely to slow things down. It will be interesting to see how well busloads of school children make it through the screening.

Don't forget, [CPA Day](#) is this Wednesday, Jan. 18, and there is still time to sign up. Join your peers at the Capitol to receive an up to the minute briefing on what is happening in Jefferson City, and how it could impact your business. In addition, MSCPAs members will be handing out tax guides to all 197 legislators, so your participation would definitely make a strong impact.

Committee Hearings of Interest

The Senate Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on [SB 16](#), which exempts delivery charges from sales tax. The MSCPAs supports this bill, and no one testified in opposition.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view an early list of high-priority bills the MSCPA is currently tracking, based on pre-filing and the first week of session. This list will change quite a bit over the next few weeks as new legislation is introduced.

For Additional Information

This *Government Advocacy Update* e-newsletter will continue weekly through the legislative session. If you have any questions on the MSCPA's government advocacy efforts, please visit the [Web page](#), or contact [Dena Hull](#) at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

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