

Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

January 25, 2021

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 legislative activity last week was slightly scaled back because the House was not in session. The Senate was in session and focused committee work on some high-priority legislation. This week looks to be a busy one as both chambers are scheduled to be in session. Governor Parson will outline his priorities in the state of the state address on Wednesday.

Due to a high number of COVID-19 cases and quarantines among House members and staff, the House was not in session last week. The expectation is that enough people will be cleared to allow the House to conduct business as usual this week. Even if that is the case for the House as a whole, it is likely some committee work will still be impacted.

The Senate was in session as usual last week. Because no bills are on the calendar yet, all the work was done in committee. In anticipation of potential shutdowns later in the session, the Senate took up several high-priority bills in committee last week. Legislation addressing COVID-19 liability, education reform, tort reform and local control of public health orders was all heard in committee. It is expected that committee substitute bills will be voted out this week. This tees up these issues for floor debate soon. With few other bills on the calendar yet, the Senate can spend a lot of time working out the details on the floor.

Governor Parson is planning to hold his state of the state address on Wednesday, during which he will present his budget and outline his legislative priorities for the session. Historically, this address is given to a joint session of the House and Senate. A joint session requires Senators to come into the House chamber, and the legislators are seated close together. No word yet on whether there will be changes to the seating or format to allow for social distancing.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The period for filing bills is still open so new ones are added every day. Be sure to check the list regularly to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients. Also, attend MOCPA's [Virtual CPA Day](#) on Feb 4, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., for a complete update and to hear from legislators and state officials, including Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick, on issues that may impact the profession this year.

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

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