

# Government Advocacy Update



*Protecting Your Interests*

February 1, 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 Legislature was again impacted by COVID-19 last week. After logistic adjustments, Governor Parson delivered his state of the state message. It included an issue of importance to CPAs. Tax incentive legislation was approved by the House.

The Senate was impacted by new positive cases last week. The combination of the additional positives and the associated isolations of close contacts resulted in several senators having to be absent from committee meetings and session. This created some challenges for the Senate establishing a quorum. As a result, two of the Senate's top priority bills had to be placed on the informal calendar because key Senators could not be present for the debate. It is ironic that one of these was SB 51, which deals with COVID-19 liability protections.

Governor Parson's state of the state message was scheduled to be delivered to a joint session of the House and Senate on Wednesday. This is traditionally held in the House chamber and attended by the full Senate, all other statewide officials, cabinet members, Supreme Court Justices and key guests of public officials. Concerns with crowding people into the chamber and COVID-19's impact on the Senate created a situation where it was not possible to hold the event as usual. After much discussion among legislative leaders and the governor, the event was moved to the Senate chamber. Gallery attendance was limited, and many House members watched the event online in their offices.

Once the logistics were worked out, Governor Parson delivered a speech that did not contain many surprises. His budget priorities reflected his long-standing commitment to workforce and infrastructure development. He asked that legislation addressing COVID-19 liability protection and a *Wayfair* fix be top priorities of the Legislature. Both of these issues are priorities for MOCPA members.

The House was able to work without significant interruptions last week and passed two bills of interest to MO CPAs. [HB 429](#) and [HB 430](#) make changes to state tax credits for adoption and foster care costs. These issues are priorities of the Speaker. Both bills passed unanimously. They now go to the Senate for approval.

## **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. Be sure to check

the list regularly to look for new 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 Lt. Governor Kehoe, Secretary of State Ashcroft and State Treasurer 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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