

Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

February 8, 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

One of MOCPA's priority bills was the subject of an all-nighter in the Senate last week. COVID-19 impacted another official event. A House member was indicted. MOCPA hosted its first "virtual" CPA Day.

One of the issues MOCPA is watching closely this session is legislation providing protection from COVID-19 liability. The first bill addressing this issue, [SB 51](#), came up for debate last week on the Senate floor. The debate began Tuesday afternoon and ended 15 hours later on Wednesday morning. Most of the debate was to hold the floor while negotiations on the details occurred among the parties off the floor. The nuances of standards and burdens of proof were eventually agreed to. The bill needs one more roll call vote to pass the Senate. It will also need a separate vote to enact an emergency clause so it can take effect when signed. That vote requires a two-thirds majority.

Each year, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court delivers a State of the Judiciary in the House. Due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's address was delivered virtually, which is another example of events in the General Assembly that have or likely will be altered this year.

A freshman representative from southwest Missouri was indicted on charges of fraud related to her medical practice. In response, the Speaker removed her from all committees and publicly urged her to resign. This makes the third House member who is not allowed to participate with their caucuses or serve on committees.

Also altered due to COVID-19 was MOCPA's annual CPA Day. In normal years, this event involves CPAs from around the state travelling to Jefferson City to meet with state legislators. Due to concerns with the pandemic, the event was hosted virtually this year. MOCPA

members connected remotely to hear an update on legislative and professional issues. Although they could not be present in person, legislators and several statewide officials provided recorded updates on current issues. If you were not able to join us, [click here](#) to watch the event on MOCPA's YouTube channel.

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 bills 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.

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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