

## Protecting Your Interests

January 12, 2020

*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 2020 General Assembly convened at noon last Wednesday, Jan. 8. This is the first week of session, so it was marked with a lot of administrative and ceremonial actions. These activities consumed most of the two days of session. Leadership in both chambers held press conferences to talk about priorities for the session. Because this is the second year of the two-year session, there was less ceremony than last year, and things have gotten off to a little faster start.

The House floor activity was focused on reading in all the pre-filed bills and adopting the routine resolutions that are necessary to start the session. The House finished the week assigning some bills to committees and started scheduling hearings for this week.

The Senate followed much of the same path. They read in all the pre-filed bills, set committee schedules, adopted routine resolutions, and assigned some bills to committees. Like the House, the Senate is expected to begin committee hearings this week.

This week in the Legislature should produce much more activity. Governor Parson plans to deliver his state-of-the-state message on Wednesday. In his remarks, he will outline his priorities for the session and the budget. These items will then be the focus of a great deal of the legislative activity for the session. After this week, we will have a clearer picture of the priorities for the session, and the people who will be charged with getting them done. However, it is already clear that there is likely to be a lot of legislation of interest to Missouri CPAs. The best way to get a comprehensive overview of the important issues at the start of the session is to attend [CPA Day](#) on January 22. You will hear first-hand from legislators and have an opportunity to meet with your legislator in the Capitol.

### **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. It is much too early to tell which of these may gain traction. Watch future weekly updates for reports on which of these bills are moving.

There are four bills on the list that MOCPA will be actively trying to pass. [HB 1734](#) and [SB 704](#) are designed to allow the Missouri Department of Revenue to implement the partnership audit changes adopted by the IRS. This is model language worked out nationally by the AICPA and other stakeholders with the hope of adopting it in all states.

**[HB 1417](#)** and **[SB 703](#)** make changes to bring MOCPA's peer review reporting practices in line with AICPA guidance.

These bills were filed last year. Although they had no opposition, they didn't make it through the process. We are getting an early start this year and hoping to make it to the finish line.

Additionally, we will, as always, be closely monitoring any legislation dealing with licensing or tax issues of interest to Missouri CPAs

### **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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