

# Government Advocacy Update



*Protecting Your Interests*

January 18, 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**

Last week marked the first full week of the legislative session. It started with the swearing in of the statewide elected officials and ended with the House censuring one of its members. Committees were formed, and the House had its first COVID-19 stall.

On Monday the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, and attorney general were all sworn into a new term of office. Typically, the inauguration is preceded by a parade and followed by an evening ball. Due to concerns with COVID-19, only the actual swearing in and acceptance speeches took place. Because this is the bicentennial year for Missouri, these other activities are planned for later in the year. The hope is that warmer weather and a vaccine will make it safer by summer.

The House and Senate formed committees for the new session and began assigning some bills. This is the first stage of the legislative process, so until committees begin holding hearings there is very little legislative activity that can occur.

The House spent time dealing with a disciplinary matter for one of its members. Representative Wiley Price had been investigated by the House Ethics Committee for an allegation of having sex with a legislative intern. The committee did not corroborate the complaint but concluded that the Representative had committed perjury before the committee and had attempted to impede the investigation. The House voted 140-3 to censure the representative. Under the censure, the Representative will be removed from all committees, barred from holding any leadership positions, and cannot have direct supervision over staff. It was a very difficult day for all House members.

In only the third week of the session, the Legislature is already experiencing its first COVID-19 related interruption. Due to several positive cases and related close-contact quarantining,

the House announced it would not be in session this week. The Senate plans to meet and hold hearings. There are fewer Senators, and they have more space on the floor, so it is hoped they can conduct business with appropriate safeguards. The plan is for both bodies be back next week.

### **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are filed daily that may be added to the list. Be sure to check MOCPA's website regularly 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 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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