

Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

April 5, 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 House finished its work on the budget last week. The Senate advanced a perennial issue. A key MOCPA issue advanced in both chambers.

The House spent most of its floor time last week completing the budget. As expected, the House did not override the Budget Committee on the floor, so the budget does not contain the funding for Medicaid expansion that was requested by Governor Parson. The budget now goes to the Senate for approval. The issue of Medicaid funding will likely spark a spirited debate in the Senate as several Senators have already expressed strong opinions on both sides of the issue. By law, the budget must be adopted by May 7.

Missouri is the only state without a statewide prescription drug monitoring system (PDMP). This issue has been hotly debated for several years, and bills have been passed by each chamber, but no legislation has successfully been passed by both. The key advocate for this issue had been in the House, but last year she was elected to the Senate. Last week her legislation establishing a PDMP came up for a vote in the Senate. After more than six hours of debate, the bill was passed. This is the earliest the Senate has approved this legislation.

A key issue for MOCPA is passage of legislation establishing economic nexus for remote sellers (aka the *Wayfair* bill). Missouri is one of the last states to adopt this legislation. This moved closer in both chambers last week. The Senate Ways and Means Committee had a hearing on [HB 554](#). MOCPA testified on several technical aspects of the bill that differ from the Senate bill. The Senate's version, [SB 153](#), was assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee. It will likely have a hearing in the next two weeks. Although both bills are moving, there are several key differences between the two versions that still must be worked out.

The Legislature will have a short week as they are taking today off for the Easter holiday. There are six weeks left in session, and this is the timeframe when most of the legislation gets passed. A lot of that occurs by amending bills that are not moving to bills that are. Pay close attention to the list of legislation MOCPA is tracking as this will be updated when bills are combined.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The period for

filing bills has closed, so new bills cannot be filed. Bills may be amended, which may result in bills being added or removed from the list. Be sure to check the list often for updates to 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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