



February 16, 2026

*In order to be responsive to the latest legislative developments, MOCPA continually monitors proposed legislation. We utilize 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.*

### **Session Update**

Last week was the most productive by the Missouri Senate so far. It perfected and sent several pieces of legislation to the House that dealt with issues such as online filing of tax returns, Department of Revenue fee offices, sewage regulations, and veterans' benefits. The Senate has sent five pieces of legislation to the House for consideration. While this number seems small, it shows that the Senate is operating albeit, slowly.

The House continued with its same aggressive pace, holding hearings on more than 100 bills and sending 16 pieces of legislation on to the Senate last week. The House had already sent seven bills.

With the Feb. 27 bill filing deadline rapidly approaching, the volume of hearings is expected to intensify as lawmakers work to position their proposals. To date, the House has filed 1,796 bills and resolutions, while the Senate has introduced 893, underscoring the sheer scope of activity already underway this session.

The Senate didn't convene today in observance of Presidents' Day. The House, however, remained in session, with a full schedule of committee hearings and floor debate slated for the week.

### **Bills of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are filed daily, and the list is updated each week. Be sure to check the list regularly to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

Of special note, [SB 1233](#), which seeks to expand current CPA requirements by allowing licensure after earning a bachelor's degree, attaining two years of work experience, and passing the Uniform CPA Exam, was passed by the Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration by a 6-0 vote.

Other bills on MOCPA's priority list that had activity last week included:

- [SB 1279](#), which eliminates the current limits on contributions toward 529 plans to bring Missouri in line with the Federal standard, was passed by the Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development by a 5-0 vote.
  
- [SB 994](#), which creates a 60-day grace period for taxpayers who owe additional tax because a state tax credit they claimed was reduced or denied, was taken up for debate on the Senate floor. Additionally, the bill changes the deadline for filing state income tax returns so that it matches the federal income tax filing due date. If the IRS changes its deadline for any reason, Missouri's deadline would automatically change to that same date. During debate, the bill was successfully amended to:
  - Incorporate [SB 1291](#), expanding existing farmland transfer tax deductions for beginning farmers by extending eligibility to transfers made through LLCs and trusts, in addition to individuals.
  - Require state income tax returns for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2026, to include the name of the public school district in which the taxpayer resides, authorize the director of revenue to prescribe the form and content of returns, reaffirm the director's authority to examine records and take testimony to verify returns, and require tax reports and returns to be retained for at least four years before authorized destruction.
  - Revise Missouri's income tax deficiency and refund process by providing that a notice of deficiency becomes a final assessment 60 days after mailing, or 150 days if the taxpayer is outside the United States, unless the taxpayer files a protest, and by ensuring that taxpayers who pay a deficiency later found to be erroneous are entitled to a refund of the tax, interest, additions to tax, and penalties paid, regardless of whether a protest was timely filed.

Once modified, the Senate provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday, and without further debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 28-2 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

- [HB 1707](#), which would modify the definition of "gross receipts" for the purposes of sales tax to provide that charges related to the extension of credit will include applicable credit/debit card fees, was heard by the House Committee on Commerce. Supporting testimony was provided by a CPA, the Associated Industries of Missouri, and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. No opposing testimony was presented.
  
- [HB 1762](#) and [HB 2059](#), which update Missouri law to increase the tax exemption for privately funded retirement income from \$6,000 to \$12,000 beginning in 2027 and raises the income limits to qualify for the full exemption, were heard by the House Committee on Pensions. The bills maintain existing provisions for Social Security exemptions, phaseouts for higher-income taxpayers, and rules regarding rollovers and lump-sum distributions.

- [SJR 96](#), which is a preemptive measure to prohibit taxation on unrealized gains, was heard by the Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development.

**For Additional Information**

This *Government Advocacy Update* will continue regularly through the legislative session. If you have any questions on our legislative efforts, please contact [Dena Hull](#) at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe