



May 11, 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.

CPA Licensure Pathway Bill Passes

[SB 1233](#) has cleared the General Assembly and is now just one signature away from becoming law. Governor Kehoe has until July 14 to sign or veto the legislation.

Thank you to everyone who provided input throughout this process, as well as all of the members who contacted their legislators to express support! We will keep you informed as we await the final step.

Session Update

Last week was an interesting one with the House operating at sort of half capacity in that they didn't have afternoon floor debate but still passed a number of Senate bills. Notably, on Tuesday, the House took up a bill relating to public safety and amended it with over 50 amendments (including amendments to the amendments). The thought was that the House was simply flexing its muscle to the Senate, but the bill has been committed to conference committee to pick and choose which amendments will make it to a final version. The bill is slated for a conference committee meeting this week.

There are only five days left before the constitutionally mandated 6 p.m. adjournment May 15. We will not send an update next Monday as we await some final information on bills that are passed. A final report will be provided the following week.

In brief...

- Net general revenue collections for April 2026 are down by 10.7 percent compared to this time last year from \$1.43 billion to \$1.28 billion.
- *The Missouri Times* reports that Missouri's newly launched sports betting laws are outpacing predicted revenues. Missouri has collected approximately \$4 million in additional revenues from sports wagering through the first four months of operation, nearly the predicted \$4.8 million that had been projected for the first year. In addition

to the tax revenues, the Missouri Gaming Commission collected \$7.5 million in up front licensing fees from sports books operators.

Gubernatorial Activity

Last week, the governor signed eight more bills into law. The bills modified provisions relating to: the “Act Against Abusive Website Access Litigation;” sewage regulation; the sex offender registry; series limited liability companies; highway patrol purchases of motor vehicles, watercraft motors and trailers; peace officer training and licensure; garnishments; and mail sent by state agencies.

Budget Update

The House and Senate Budget Conferees convened Monday afternoon and, after more than seven hours of deliberation, reached an agreement on the differences between the two chambers on the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget. In January, Governor Kehoe laid out a \$54.5 billion spending plan. The House subsequently approved a \$52.4 billion version in March, followed by the Senate’s version \$50.8 billion proposal in April. General Revenue spending totals approximately \$16 billion and will require the use of the approximately \$2.9 billion in surplus general revenue accumulated since 2021. While the majority of the differences were negotiated privately, several items sparked heated debate during the conference.

The most contentious discussion centered on funding for the Foundation Formula, the state’s per-pupil funding mechanism for public schools. Conferees ultimately recommended \$4.3 billion for the program, which is \$190 million below the governor’s requested amount. Other notable budget actions include restoration of \$51 million for enhanced child care subsidies proposed by the governor and removed by the House; \$1.4 billion in funding for public colleges, universities, community colleges and workforce development programs, which is a reversal of the House’s higher education and community college funding plan, but does require the development of a new funding model by Dec. 1, 2026; a compromise allocation of \$20 million for low-volume roads; creation of a requirement for the Office of Administration to appoint a Chief Innovation and Technology Officer; restoration of services for adults with developmental disabilities previously reduced in the governor’s proposal; transfer of IT services from the Office of Administration to the Department of Social Services for implementation of [HR 1](#) federal Medicaid mandates; a \$10 million increase for the MOScholars tuition voucher program; and restoration of \$1 million in General Revenue, along with an additional \$9 million in other funds, for domestic violence programs.

After considerable debate, both chambers truly agreed to and finally passed all operating and capital improvement bills. The total planned Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget, including four capital improvement bills, is now approximately \$55.1 billion. The bills now will be sent to the governor for his consideration and final action must be taken before the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

Bills of Interest

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

Bills of interest that had activity last week included:

[SB 1012](#), which takes a broader, more comprehensive approach to regulating artificial intelligence by establishing statewide guidelines for the currently unregulated field. The Senate took up and dedicated floor time to debate the bill. It was third read and passed by a 20-10 vote and will now be sent to the House for further consideration.

[HB 2409](#), which seeks to establish tax credits for childcare employers, employees and providers to help with safe, reliable and affordable childcare. The credits include the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act, Employer Provided Child Care Assistance Tax Credit Act, and Child Care Providers Tax Credit Act. The bill was discussed in the Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration and passed by a 5-0 vote.

[SB 1553](#), which creates the Missouri Defense and Energy Independence Act to encourage in-state production of critical materials and pharmaceuticals. The bill was heard in the House Committee on Commerce, after which, the committee immediately went into executive session and passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

[SB 1032](#), which modifies current law by increasing the dependent tax exemption for unborn children to up to \$2,400 and allowing the deduction to be claimed in the year the child is born. The bill was discussed in the House Committee on Ways and Means. After much debate, the committee ultimately failed to pass the bill by a tied 4 to 4 vote.

[HB 2243](#), which aims to revert the local sales tax exemption, allowing counties and municipalities to levy sales taxes on materials used or consumed in manufacturing, processing, compounding, mining, or producing of any product. The bill was heard in the House Committee on Legislative Rules. Several county commissioners testified in support, stressing the financial challenge of maintaining civil services without the ability to levy local sales tax. Opposing testimony was provided by Associated Industries of Missouri who emphasized the original onus of the exemptions was to streamline the tax process and that the financial burden could be offset by local municipalities enacting use taxes.

For Additional Information

If you have any questions on MOCPA's legislative efforts, please contact [Dena Hull](#) at (314) 392-5805.

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