

May 19, 2025

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

The 2025 Missouri legislative session officially came to an end shortly after 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. When it began in January, many were hopeful for a productive session with a focus on priority issues like school choice, IP reform and removal of the capital gains tax. Legislators demonstrated this optimism by filing 2,684 bills to be considered this session—a new record amount! However, despite the countless hours spent in committee hearings and on floor debate, only 70 bills were Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed (TAFP) and sent to Governor Kehoe. And of those, 16 were appropriation bills and six were resolutions.

On Tuesday, Governor Kehoe met with members of the House and Senate to impress on them the importance of passing a plan to fund up to half of the cost of a new stadium for the Royals and a refurbished Arrowhead Stadium for the Chiefs. The proposal passed on a 108-40 vote in the House despite never having been introduced as a formal bill or ever having a public hearing.

The bill faced a much rockier path in the Senate. Senators complained that they were being asked to vote on a stadium funding plan that could cost hundreds of millions of dollars with only days left in the session and with no advanced notice. Many voiced their resentment over the fact that it was approved by the House just days after the House refused to allow a vote on a \$500 million spending bill that would have funded projects for health care, education and law enforcement across the state. Ultimately, the bill was laid over for possible debate later in the week.

On Wednesday, the Senate made two unforeseen moves to end floor debate on two pieces of legislation. The majority party used the cloture motion known as "the previous question" to end debate on legislation repealing portions of the paid sick leave law and the abortion rights initiative petition. Immediately following the vote, the Senate adjourned, putting an end to the 2025 Legislative Session two days ahead of the constitutionally mandated conclusion.

In response, House leadership sent out a notification to members alerting them that Thursday would be the last day of session—a full day before the constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on Friday May 16. The House spent the day stripping amendments off House Committee Substitutes and giving final approval to the underlying Senate bills.

Governor Kehoe's administration will spend the next eight weeks reviewing the TAFP'd bills and issuing his signature or vetoes. Bills signed by the governor will become law on August 28, unless they were passed with an emergency clause. In that event, they will become effective immediately upon signature. Appropriation decisions must be made by June 30, and policy decisions must be made by July 14. The FY26 budget fiscal year starts July 1. The governor has expressed that a special session will be called to address the stadium financing issue.

Legislation of Interest

The following is a summary of bills MOCPA was tracking that were Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed. In some cases, the bills are omnibus bills, and the issue of importance may be only one portion of the bill. It is best to click on the link and read the summary of the bill rather than just the description to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

HB 147 is an omnibus retirement bill that makes several changes to provisions of the state and local retirement systems. Of particular interest to CPAs, it extends the deduction for pension income to private pension benefits as well as government pensions.

HB 199 is an omnibus local government bill that establishes several new types of taxing districts. It also makes some of the same changes to reporting as SB 2.

HB 567 repeals the mandatory sick leave provisions approved by the voters, and it also repeals the automatic increases in the minimum wage.

HB 594 is an omnibus tax bill that includes creating a state tax exemption on capital gains for individuals, and changes the eligibility and amount of the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.

HB 737 makes several changes to youth services. Of particular interest to CPAs, the bill increases the Youth Opportunities Credit from 50 to 70 percent.

HB 754 is an omnibus banking bill that also contains changes to how some trusts are taxed, and a provision that allows bank customers to designate trusted contacts that the bank may communicate with if they suspect fraud or irregularities with the account.

<u>SB 2</u> is an omnibus local government bill that changes the date counties must publish financial statements. It also modifies the requirements for political subdivisions to file annual reports and removes some financial penalties for not filing.

<u>SB 43</u> modifies provisions relating to the protection of vulnerable persons, which includes changes to the Champions for Children, Youth Opportunities, and Diaper Bank tax credits.

<u>SB 98</u> creates the offense of financial institution accounts fraud. This bill is the Senate companion to HB 754 and contains most of the same provisions, including those of interest to CPAs.

<u>SB 145</u> modifies provisions relating to the taxation of certain businesses, which includes prohibiting municipalities from requiring business licenses for businesses operated by anyone under 18 years of age.

<u>SB 221</u> modifies the standard for review of a state agency's interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and other subregulatory documents.

For Additional Information Attend MOCPA Legislative Session Wrap-up Webinar

Virtual | May 30 | 10-10:50 a.m.

Now that Missouri's 2025 regular legislative session has adjourned, learn how bills of interest to CPAs fared, and what impact they could have on the profession, your business or your clients. Patty Faenger, executive director of the Missouri State Board of Accountancy, will join the conversation to share important info you need to know for renewing your license this year.

Register here for this 50-minute, complimentary CPE session!

This is the last regular *Government Advocacy Update* for this legislative session. We will send special alerts as needed going forward. If you have any questions on our legislative efforts, please visit our <u>government advocacy web page</u>, or contact <u>Dena</u> <u>Hull</u> at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

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