



March 18, 2024

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 traditional halfway point of the session. It was the last week before the Legislature took a week off for spring break. While spring break is traditionally viewed as the halfway point of the session, this year it is a little over the halfway point. With only eight weeks left when the Legislature reconvenes, there are several significant pieces of legislation left.

Conventional wisdom has been that to have a good chance of passing, a bill needs to be out of its house of origin by spring break. That maxim has not proved to be the case in recent years due to the use of large omnibus bills to advance several pieces of legislation in one combined bill at the end of the session. Considering that not many bills have met that milestone yet, including several high-priority bills, the recent trend is likely to be the case this year.

As previously reported, the Senate has been plagued with prolonged debate, filibusters, and shortened schedules this year. As a result, very few Senate bills have passed. The House has passed what most would consider a normal number of bills, but very few of those have been heard in a Senate committee and none have yet been reported to the floor. Based on things at the halfway point, the Legislature will have to pick up the pace on legislation during the second half of the session for many of these measures to pass.

A couple of high-profile pieces of legislation, changes to Educational Scholarship Accounts and the initiative petition process, have passed the Senate. Two big items have yet to see any floor time. The state's budget has not been voted on by the House. It is expected to be voted on by the House the week of March 25. Assuming passage that week, the Senate would have six weeks to finish it up. Traditionally

there have been significant differences between House and Senate budget writers so this process is likely to come down to the wire and consume significant amounts of floor time.

Also, yet to pass either chamber is legislation reauthorizing the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA). The FRA is a special tax paid by hospitals that is used as matching funds for the state's Medicaid program. It is considered critical to funding the Medicaid program, so if it is not extended by the deadline for approving the budget, the Legislature will either have to make significant budget cuts, or return in a special session.

MOCPA's top priority this session, legislation to modify the state's pass-through entity tax, has met the traditional milestone of advancing out of the house of origin. For more information on this legislation as well as the status of other high-priority bills MOCPA is tracking, register for our complimentary webinar taking place next week. [Click here](#) to sign up!

Because the Legislature is on spring break this week, there will not be a *Government Advocacy Update* next week. Look for the regular updates to resume April 1.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The deadline for filing new bills has passed, but bills are regularly amended. The list is updated each week to reflect any changes. Be sure to check the list regularly to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

For Additional Information

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.

Register Today!

Attend a complimentary, virtual mid-session **Legislative Update on March 22**; 9 to 9:50 a.m. You'll receive an update from Chuck Pierce on bills MOCPA is following that could impact your business, clients and the profession. In addition a representative from Missouri's Department of Revenue will provide an update on PTET. [Click here](#) to register!

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