



March 28, 2022

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 Senate finished one of the most controversial pieces of legislation of last week. The House handled a tough legislative issue and sent it to the Senate. The Legislature is facing an increasingly compressed timeframe to finish the budget.

One of the biggest issues of this legislative session is congressional redistricting. Every 10 years the Legislature is responsible for re-balancing the congressional districts to comply with changes reported in the census. The House passed redistricting in late January. The Senate, however, had several different ideas on how the districts were to be drawn. This disagreement with the House and a lack of consensus among Senators on an alternative resulted in intense debate and negotiation among the Senators on what the districts should look like. With the filing deadline approaching this week, pressure mounted last week for the Senate to work out a compromise or the issue would land in the courts.

This tension was evident as the Senate tried to pass other unrelated legislation. On Wednesday, this tension reached the breaking point. A potentially controversial COVID mandate amendment was offered on a bill on contracting practices. The debate on the amendment intensified into a filibuster on the legislation. Rather than continue to battle it out on the floor, the Senate elected to "stand at ease," meaning it was in session with no debate for seven hours Wednesday night into Thursday morning. When it reconvened

Thursday morning, it tabled the contracting bill without a vote and took up the redistricting bill. Three alternatives to the House version were considered, and one was adopted by a vote of 22 to 10. After the districts were approved, the Senate also approved an emergency clause to make the bill effective upon signature of the governor. Because the bill was amended, it requires another vote by the House before it is final. The emergency clause, which requires a two-thirds majority vote, will also need to be voted by the House.

While the Senate was stalled debating redistricting, the House passed a bill allowing betting on college and professional sports. This bill has been controversial in the past but passed 115 to 33 this year. It now goes to the Senate, where it is likely to garner significant debate.

The Legislature is required to pass the budget this year by May 6. Typically the House finishes its work on the budget bills by spring break and sends the budget to the Senate. That has not happened yet this session. The House is expected to finish its committee work on the budget this week. Assuming it does, floor debate will likely occur next week. If that timeline holds, the Senate will only have four weeks to pass its version and work out any differences with the House. With a record amount of money to spend this year and many different ideas on how to use it, this is a tight timeline.

A special thank you to all members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend our MOCPA legislative update webinar last week. Appreciation also goes to Revenue Director Wayne Wallingford and the Director of Taxation Joel Allison for being a part of the presentation. Look for another virtual update at the end of the legislative session. In the meantime, continue to read this weekly e-newsletter to stay informed on happenings within the Missouri Legislature.

Legislation 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.

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.

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe