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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**

There was not a lot of floor activity in the Missouri Legislature last week. This is normal for this time of the year because a lot of work needs to be done in committee before legislation comes to the floor. The floor and committee activity in the Senate hit a snag due to redistricting. The House passed a bill of interest to Missouri CPAs.

This time of the year most of the legislative work occurs in committee. The backlog of pre-filed bills must be heard in committee before there is any legislation to debate on the floor. Because committees cannot meet when the Legislature is in session, this works out well. Later in the session, it becomes more of a balancing act as there is still legislation that needs to be heard in committee, but there are numerous bills requiring floor debate and votes.

One of the bills that is moving through the process deals with creating new congressional districts. The House has passed its version of the new districts, which was heard in a Senate committee last week. As reported last week, the bill narrowly passed the House. In the Senate committee hearing it became clear that there were several opponents to the House bill. That became even more clear on Wednesday when several Senators took control of the floor to voice their objections even though that legislation was not up for debate or vote yet. To pass a bill before the filing begins at the end of February, the bill will need a Senate vote soon. If the bill comes to the floor before all parties are satisfied, it is likely to tie up floor action for a long time.

One of the bills the House did take up and pass last week was one of interest to Missouri CPAs. <u>HB 1720</u> restores and extends the sunset on several agriculture tax credits. This bill goes to the Senate for a committee hearing and debate.

## **Legislation of Interest**

<u>Click here</u> 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 <u>Web page</u>, or contact <u>Dena Hull</u> at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

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