



March 14, 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 Legislature finished the last week before spring break in much the same fashion as the weeks before. The House finished with many of their high priority bills passed and sent to the Senate. The Senate finished with tension but did manage to pass a few bills.

This week marks the mid-point of the session. The House has passed a total of 38 bills. These bills include many of the House priorities for the year and were some of the more difficult bills to pass. To date, the House has passed legislation addressing: Congressional redistricting; COVID mandates; charter school expansion; voter registration; initiative petition changes; Medicaid reform; and the supplemental budget.

The Senate has been mired in controversy between members that has stalled debate. At the break, the Senate had given final approval to the supplemental budget but had passed only eight bills. Six of those were passed the last day.

This imbalance in House and Senate bills is very likely to result in bills being heavily amended earlier in the session than usual. Because the House doesn't have many Senate bills to work on, they will continue to send House bills to the Senate. Unless the Senate picks up the pace dramatically, they will need to start amending Senate priorities on House bills. This is a normal part of the process, but typically is done late in the session and in a more equal balance in both the House and Senate.

At this point, the Legislature has not completed the Congressional redistricting maps. Opinions differ on what happens if they don't. Some are of the opinion that it doesn't matter, and the old maps are still in place. Others believe the Legislature can request the courts to address it. Almost everyone agrees that multiple people would have standing to raise a court challenge, thereby requiring the courts to address it. If the Legislature returns from spring break with a consensus on the maps, they will still have time to pass maps before the end of filing.

The outlook for the second half of the session is uncertain. When legislators return, they will have eight weeks until the end of session. One of those weeks will be spent debating and passing the budget. This is the Legislature's only constitutional requirement, so it will get

done. What else gets accomplished depends on how much cooling off occurs during the break.

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

Because this is legislative spring break, there will not be a *Government Advocacy Update* next week. The update will resume on March 28 and 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.

Register Today!

Attend a complimentary, virtual mid-session **Legislative Update on March 25**; 9 to 10 a.m. You'll receive an update from Chuck Pierce on bills MOCPA is following that could impact your business. In addition, you'll hear from Wayne Wallingford, the new director of the Missouri Department of Revenue, and a tax season update from Joel Allison, the Department's acting director of the tax division. [Click here](#) to sign up!

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe