



January 9, 2023

*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 Missouri Legislature convened at noon on Jan. 4. The first week of session is largely ceremonial. The legislators elected leadership, adopted rules and began reading all the pre-filed legislation into the official record.

Because this session marks the start of a new legislative term, both chambers elect leaders to serve for the next two years. Unlike the spectacle in Washington, the process in Jefferson City went smoothly. Here are top legislative leaders for this session:

### **Senate**

- President Pro Tem—Senator Caleb Rowden
- Majority Floor Leader—Senator Cindy O’Laughlin
- Minority Floor Leader—Senator John Rizzo

### **House**

- Speaker—Representative Dean Plocher
- Speaker Pro Tem—Representative Mike Henderson
- Majority Floor Leader—Representative Jonathan Patterson
- Minority Floor Leader—Representative Crystal Quade

Legislators begin pre-filing legislation on Dec. 1. Pre-filing gives bills a slight head start in the process, so most legislators try to pre-file issues they know they want to advance. Once session starts, all this legislation must go through the same process as if it were introduced on the floor. That means that the titles of all the pre-filed bills must be read out loud to enter them into the

journal. That process, the adoption of the rules and the swearing in of new members takes up the first two days of session.

This week, legislators will return to Jefferson City on Monday and start the first full week of session. Committee chairs will likely be named, and some bills will be assigned to committees. After that is done, bills will begin to have hearings in committees.

Because this is the start of a new legislative term, there are many new legislators. MOCPA will begin reaching out to these new legislators to acquaint them with us and establish a relationship. If you have a personal or professional relationship with any of the new legislators, please let us know by contacting Dena Hull at [dhull@mocpa.org](mailto:dhull@mocpa.org) so we can update the MOCPA keyperson database.

### **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. Also, at this stage in the process there may be a slight delay in getting the bill text online. If a bill you are interested in, or its summary, is not available online, check back the next day or so.

### **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.

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