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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**

The ice storm on Monday and the Governor's State of the State message shortened the legislative agenda last week. Tensions in the Senate resulted in further stalemates that thwarted the use of the time available.

Both chambers suspended normal sessions for Monday due to the impact of a statewide ice storm. This meant Tuesday was the first regular day of session for the week. Governor Parson had scheduled his state of the state message to a joint session for Wednesday afternoon, which shortened activities for that day.

Each year, governors present their budget and other legislative priorities to a joint session of the Legislature in what is commonly referred to as the state of the state address. Because he is term-limited this year, this marked the final state of the state for Governor Parson. He presented mostly continuations of his ongoing projects interspersed with some reflections on the accomplishments of his six years as governor. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the governor's address.

In the session time available, the House continued churning through committee hearings in order to get bills on the calendar for debate. It takes passage of two committees before a bill goes to the floor, so it will likely be later this week before floor debate begins in the House.

When, or if, floor debate begins in the Senate is a mystery right now. A group of seven senators, known as the Freedom Caucus, have been holding the

floor for most of the session so far to try to gain support for rule changes and to expedite legislation they feel should be fast tracked. Not all senators agree with these priorities, and the debate has frequently been acrimonious. In an attempt to thwart this, last week Senate leadership stripped these senators of committee chairmanships and removed other privileges such as preferential parking spots. After this move, tensions escalated even further and the debate became very heated. The Senate adjourned Thursday without a breakthrough in the stalemate.

Legislative logjams in the Senate have been a normal occurrence for the past several sessions. Normally, they occur later in the session. Until this one breaks, the only legislation that is going to move is House bills.

### **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.

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