



February 6, 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**

Last week, the Senate changed its work schedule to facilitate more time for committee work, and both chambers took up controversial bills.

At this point in the session, much of the work must be done in committee as all bills have to be heard and voted on in a committee before they can be debated on the floor. Historically, both chambers have convened for a morning session, usually at 10 a.m. Because committees are only allowed to meet when the Legislature is not in session, this means committee hearings are held first thing in the morning or on a flexible schedule based on when the chamber adjourns. If there is sufficient work on the calendar, the chamber may re-convene for an afternoon session, which then results in the committees having to adjourn or recess.

The House has kept this schedule this year, but the Senate is trying something a little different. Mornings are set aside for hearings, and the Senate convenes at 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The idea is this lets committees hold uninterrupted hearings in the morning, and it also allows the Senate to take up bills on the floor in the afternoon without worrying about delaying committee meetings. This may also allow uninterrupted debate on controversial bills to continue for longer periods of time. Only time will tell if this facilitates compromise or promotes filibuster.

The Senate tested this new schedule on Wednesday by taking up for debate one of the more controversial topics of the session—legislation placing

restrictions on school curriculum and establishing rules for parental involvement in school board decisions. After several hours of debate that afternoon, the bill was placed on the informal calendar without a vote being taken. This bill is likely to repeat the pattern several more times in the Senate during the rest of the session.

The House went to a different topic that is considered by many to be just as controversial. Missouri has provisions that allow citizen groups to place initiatives directly to a public vote. Current law allows the supporters to choose whether they want the change to be statutory or constitutional. Because a statutory change can be modified by the Legislature, many groups choose to place their initiatives in the constitution. Both changes require a simple majority of the votes to pass. Last week, the House passed a measure that would increase the threshold for constitutional amendments to 60 percent. Ironically, this measure if approved by the Senate would go to a vote of the people where a simple majority could increase the threshold.

### **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.

### **Register Today!**

Attend a complimentary, virtual mid-session **Legislative Update on March 24; 9 to 9:50 a.m.** You'll receive an update from Chuck Pierce on bills MOCPA is following that could impact your business, clients and the profession. [Click here](#) to sign up!

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