



May 8, 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

A filibuster in the Senate pushed the Legislature right up to the deadline for approving the budget. This is the last week of the legislative session so legislators will be scrambling to get their priorities attached to any bills that are moving.

The constitutional deadline for approving the state budget was 6 p.m. Friday, May 5. Early in the week, everything seemed on track to meet that deadline with plenty of time to spare. A Senate filibuster on an unrelated issue delayed action on the budget and pushed the Legislature right up to the deadline.

On Wednesday, the Senate took up a bill having to do with a landfill in the Kansas City area. This has been a controversial issue throughout the session, so it was no surprise that the opposition to the legislation proposed amendments and began to stall the bill. In retaliation the next day, the Senate sponsor of the bill took control of the floor during the journal approval, effectively blocking the Senate from conducting any business until he relinquished control. With the help of other Senators sympathetic to his cause, the filibuster lasted all day. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate recessed to meet in caucus and try to hammer out a compromise. They returned several hours later and adjourned.

When the Senate convened Friday morning, the filibuster was broken, and the Senate began passing unrelated bills that were apparently part of a broad compromise to the Senators engaged in the filibuster. This took time so it was early afternoon before the Senate took up the budget. The Senate finished its work on the budget around 3:30 p.m. and sent the bills to the House for a final vote. The final bills included some changes that had not been discussed with the House. The Senate adjourned after passing the final bills, so the House had little choice but to

accept the Senate changes. The final vote on the last budget bill occurred around 5 p.m.—one hour ahead of the deadline.

The Legislature faces another hard deadline this week. The constitutional deadline for the session is 6 p.m. this Friday, May 12. With the budget behind them, legislators will focus this week on trying to get their priorities across the finish line. Their success will depend on where their legislation is coming into the week, whether they can amend their bills to others that are moving and having the Senate function without a filibuster. The last week of session is always hectic, but this year looks to be even more so.

Legislation of Interest

Considering the flurry of activity in the last week, it is very difficult to predict what specific legislation is likely to pass. Pretty much any bill out of the chamber of origin is subject to be heavily amended and passed. It can include issues that have not moved much so far so a bill that has not had much activity can be added to something else. MOCPA's government advocacy team will be monitoring the activity closely and report on the final results after the dust settles.

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The list has been updated to reflect activity through last week. The list will be updated next week to reflect bills that were passed. Be sure to check the list then to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

For Additional Information

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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