



March 4, 2024

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 was the final week for filing legislation for this session. Candidate filing for the 2024 election opened last week, resulting in shortened sessions in both chambers. MOCPA legislation advanced in both chambers.

This is an election year. Voters will select a president, a U.S. Senator, all eight members of congress, five of the six statewide officials, 17 of the 34 Senators, and all 163 House members. Last Tuesday was the first day for candidates to file for election. The filing period runs until the end of March, but the first day garners the most attention.

First among the priorities is for strong candidates and incumbents to make it clear that they are running for office. If an incumbent chooses not to file on the first day, potential challengers may jump in a particular race thinking their odds of victory are better. Once in, it is harder to convince them to get out.

Also, many candidates believe that ballot placement can have an impact on their chance of success. The theory is that voters who are uniformed on a particular race, may just pick the first name on the ballot. At one time, ballot placement was determined by filing order. This resulted in long lines forming days before the filing opened. To eliminate this chaos, the Secretary of State's office several years ago adopted a lottery system to determine filing order. All candidates who file for office on the first day draw a random number. That number determines ballot placement.

The filing day also sparks a lot of media attention. In order to accommodate legislators' schedules surrounding this event, both chambers have reduced session times on filing day. Legislators use this time to go to the Secretary of State's building

to file, hold media interviews and schedule events with family and supporters to kick off the election season.

Even with the shortened schedules, MOCPA priority bills making changes to Missouri's pass-through entity tax advanced in both chambers. **HB 1912** received a unanimous floor vote in the House. It now goes to the Senate. The Senate companion bill, **SB 1250**, received a hearing in a Senate committee. MOCPA and other business groups supported the bill. No one testified in opposition to the bill. It will need to be voted on by the committee before it can advance to the floor.

Last week was the final week to file bills in both chambers, so legislators scrambled to introduce any legislation they had not filed. Anything filed this late has an uphill battle to get to the finish line.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. No new bills can be filed but any legislation can be amended and is subject to being changed as it moves through the process. The list is updated each week, so be sure to check it 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 22**; 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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