

Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

February 19, 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

The Legislature had a short week last week due to the Chiefs Super Bowl victory parade. The Senate adjourned on Tuesday, and the House held technical sessions on Wednesday and Thursday so members could attend the parade. Although little direct work was conducted last week, several of the week's events are likely to have a significant impact on the session when legislators return this week.

The tragic shooting at the parade is likely to rekindle the ongoing debate on guns and crime. The debate over these issues is a perennial one but will undoubtedly be elevated now. Several bills have been filed, and it is likely many more will be drafted this week.

Two Missouri Supreme Court decisions last week are also likely to shape the remainder of the session. The Supreme Court issued decisions on cases involving the boundaries for Senate districts, and state funding for Planned Parenthood.

The latest redistricting efforts for the state Senate districts were challenged in court. The deadline for filing for those seats opens at the end of this month. The Supreme Court issued its decision last week that affirmed the districts as drawn by the Legislature. This creates certainty for those candidates. Because many of the open Senate seats will draw candidates who are currently in the House, you can look for tensions between these House members to increase after they officially become opponents for the same Senate seat.

The Legislature has long sought to restrict funding to Planned Parenthood through a variety of means in the budget. Although abortion is banned in Missouri, legislators

have wanted to restrict any funding from the organization because it is affiliated with clinics providing abortions in other states. The Supreme Court ruled that the state Legislature did not have the authority to restrict this funding under existing law. Several bills have been filed that would bar this funding with a statutory change rather than just through the budget. The decision last week will elevate the priority of these bills.

Politics, gun laws, and abortion are the three most contentious legislative issues every year. Each of these is likely to gain more attention when legislators return this week. This is most likely going to slow down an already slow legislative session.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOPCA 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 MOPCA'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 MOPCA is following that could impact your business, clients and the profession. [Click here](#) to sign up!

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