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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

Last week, the House finished its work on the state's budget. The Senate worked through some routine legislation but also stalled with a filibuster at the end of the week. Several bills of interest to Missouri CPAs advanced.

The House spent most of last week putting the finishing touches on its version of the state budget. This year's budget is much different than prior years in several ways. The total amount of the budget set a record due to the huge influx of federal COVID related funds. The budget left a record projected surplus of \$1.8 billion and was \$1.5 billion less than the budget recommended by Governor Parson. The budget now goes to the Senate for approval. With so much additional funding available, the budget debate in the Senate is expected to be lengthy.

The Senate started the week on a normal note working on and passing several routine bills. On Wednesday, however, it hit a snag. The Senate took up a tort reform bill that would reduce the statute of limitations for filing a personal injury lawsuit. Missouri has one of the longest statutes of limitations of any state at five years. Tort reform legislation has always been controversial and this one proved no different. Several Senators from both parties tied up the floor for almost six hours Wednesday night. Around midnight, the bill was placed on the informal calendar with no resolution.

Despite the delays due to budget and senate filibuster, several bills of interest to Missouri CPAs advanced last week.

One issue of keen interest to CPAs, the passage of the SALT parity act establishing a work-around solution for pass through entities, advanced in both chambers. [SB 931](#) was perfected in the Senate and needs one more vote in the Senate to pass. [SB 807](#) containing this provision as well as several others of interest to CPAs has already passed the Senate. It was assigned to a House committee last week. Also of interest to Missouri CPAs:

- [HB 1472](#), which modifies the offense of money laundering, passed the House; and
- [HB 1720](#), an omnibus agriculture bill containing several ag related tax measures, was passed by the Senate. It was heavily amended by the Senate, so it returns to the House.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. As bills are amended and votes are taken, the list is updated. 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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