



February 28, 2022

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 Senate log jam broke loose slightly last week. The House continued to send bills to the Senate, and several bills of interest to MOCPA advanced.

The subject of the past updates has been the stalled progress in the Senate. Last week started with every indication that it would continue. The Legislature was not in session on Monday due to observance of Presidents' Day. When they convened Tuesday, one senator took control of the floor to protest being disciplined for violating the Senate's dress code. He held the floor until adjournment on Tuesday, then picked up where he left off on Wednesday. The Senate recessed and when it returned, the difference appeared to have been worked out as the Senate began debate on legislation.

The primary cause of the stall had been the debate over congressional districts. The Senate left that order of business and went to other legislation. By doing this, it was able to take up one of the other big priorities of the session, the supplemental budget. This budget was needed to approve spending for additional federal funds as well as funding the increase in Medicaid benefits.

The House took up the changes the Senate made to the budget and quickly passed it. This cleared a major early session priority for the Legislature. The issue of congressional redistricting is not resolved, so it is not clear what the path for the Senate looks like. The legislative spring break, which marks the

halfway point in the session, is two weeks away. To date, only two Senate bills have been sent to the House.

Both of those bills passed by the Senate are of interest to MOCPA. [SB 672](#), re-establishes the Fresh Start program. Accounting is one of the majors identified as eligible to be funded under the program. The Senate also passed [SJR 33](#). This is a constitutional amendment that if approved by voters would place a cap on the state's income tax rate and give the state Legislature the authority to tax digital products. These measures now go to the House for approval.

An issue that MOCPA is watching closely is COVID-related legislation. Several bills have been filed to limit the ability of businesses or government entities to establish vaccine or other mandates. Business organizations have worked with the House sponsors to reach a compromise that protects individual rights without impeding private employers' authority to set reasonable policies. Two of these bills, [HB 1686](#) and [HB 2358](#), passed the House and go to the Senate for approval.

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 25; 9 to 10 a.m.** You'll receive an update from Chuck Pierce on bills MOCPA is following that could impact your business. In addition, you'll hear from Wayne Wallingford, the new director of the Missouri Department of Revenue, and a tax season update from Joel Allison, the Department's acting director of the tax division.

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