

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY UPDATE

Protecting Your Interests



February 14, 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 Legislature missed most of the previous week due to inclement weather. Both chambers adjourned for the week on February 2 to allow members to travel home ahead of the winter storm. They returned last Monday, February 7, but the week looked very different for the two chambers. The Senate remained stalled over congressional redistricting and had rare Friday and Saturday sessions to work on it. The House advanced one of the top priorities for the session, the supplemental budget.

When the Senate adjourned on February 3, the debate over the congressional boundaries had just begun. The debate resumed on February 7, and it was apparent there were strong differences over how the districts should be drawn. Differences over geographic boundaries, political party make up, and demographics of the districts drawn by the House resulted in a filibuster that began almost immediately and lasted all week. Despite being in session two extra days on Friday and Saturday, a compromise was not reached. The Senate adjourned Saturday and does not return until Tuesday. The hope is that the parties can discuss alternatives and reach an agreement by then. If they do not, the filibuster will likely continue.

The Legislature had two early session priorities—congressional redistricting and passing a supplemental budget. At this point, the House has done its part to advance both of those. The House previously passed the redistricting bill that has prompted the Senate filibuster. On Thursday, it gave final approval to a supplemental budget, which contains spending authorization for COVID relief funds, appropriations to fund Medicaid expansion and pay increases for select state employees. The budget bill now goes to the Senate where it is expected these issues will spark additional controversy.

The filibuster in the Senate is beginning to create a backlog of legislation. The Legislature has been in session for six weeks, and the Senate has not passed a single Senate bill. When the Senate is engaged in floor debate, committees are not allowed to meet, so bills remain in committee without hearings. Although the House is holding hearings and passing bills, they all require action by the Senate to become law. If Senators do not work out a compromise on the congressional districts and/or the budget sparks similar actions, this backlog is likely to only get worse.

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. [Click here](#) to sign up!

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