



May 1, 2023

*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 completed its work on the budget in a marathon session last week. It also approved a measure to change the initiative petition process. The House continued the process of heavily amending Senate bills in a final push to get priorities to the finish line.

The Senate took up the budget on the floor Tuesday afternoon and did not complete its work until 3 a.m. on Wednesday. One of the most controversial aspects of the debate was over language restrictions on state departments' use of diversity, equity and inclusion statements as a condition of contracting or employment.

The House budget included restrictions on state departments that were removed by the Senate committee. Several Senators tried to restore the restrictions on the floor. After a lengthy debate, the Senate voted not to include the language and debate on the individual budget items began. With a record level of spending in the budget, this debate was also lengthy. The budget now goes to conference committees of the House and Senate to work out the differences. The deadline for passing the budget is this Friday.

The other controversial bill dealt with by the Senate last week addressed the process for citizen initiative petitions. Missouri has seen an increase in these in recent years and many legislators believe the process, particularly for constitutional amendments, should be tightened. The Senate approved a House bill increasing the threshold for Constitutional amendments. Because the bill was amended by the Senate, it must go back to the House for approval or conference.

The House continued to try to advance its members' priorities by heavily amending Senate bills. With only two weeks left in the session, the best chance for passing legislation at this point is to attach it to something that has already passed the other chamber. Because there are much fewer Senate bills than House bills in that status, the few Senate bills in the House are being heavily amended. While the Senate could just vote to accept the House amendments, that is unlikely to happen. As a result, most of these bills will have to go to conference in the last week to work out the differences.

### **Legislation of Interest**

Here is a summary of some of the bills on MOCPA's tracking list that had significant activity last week. The following were voted out of committee in the second chamber, which means House bills in the Senate or Senate bills in the House:

- [SB 131](#)—Modifies provisions relating to firearms tax relief;
- [HB 268](#)—Establishes the Regulatory Sandbox Act;
- [HB 668](#)—Creates a grant program for employers to enhance cybersecurity;
- [HB 356](#)—Modifies provisions relating to income tax deductions for private pensions;
- [HB 870](#)—Authorizes the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act, the Employer-Provided Child Care Assistance Tax Credit Act, the Child Care Providers Tax Credit, and the Supporting Use of Child Care for Economic Stability and Security (SUCCESS) Tax Credit, relating to tax credits for child care;
- [HB 316](#)—Relates to facilities of historic significance;
- [SB 143](#)—Establishes a tax credit for grocery stores in a food desert;
- [SB 247](#)—Modifies provisions relating to taxation;
- [SB 3](#)—Modifies provisions relating to the promotion of business development;
- [SB 275](#)—Provides a sales tax exemption for the production of electricity;
- [SB 100](#)—Creates and modifies provisions relating to gold and silver;
- [HB 415](#)—Requires dealers to collect and remit sales tax on motor vehicle sales.

All of these bills have been heavily amended in committee and contain numerous other provisions than the original bill. As a result, the title may not be reflective of all the provisions of the bill.

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The deadline for filing new bills has passed. However, bills are frequently amended, 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.

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe