



January 23, 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

Last week, the Legislature learned Governor Parson's priorities for this session in his State of the State address. Both chambers finished forming committees and began assigning bills and holding hearings. The legislative pace is likely to pick up now that these activities are finished.

Every year the governor addresses a joint session of the Legislature and delivers what is referred to as the State of the State address. The primary purpose of the speech is for the governor to outline their budget priorities for the next year. The speech this year was greatly anticipated because the state currently has a record surplus, and legislators were anxious to see how the governor's priorities matched theirs.

Some of the new spending items highlighting the governor's budget include:

- \$859 million to add lanes to I-70;
- \$273 million for pay raises for state employees;
- \$272 million for capital improvements at Missouri's public universities;
- \$78 million to help subsidize childcare;
- \$70 million increase in core funding for higher education;
- \$56 million to provide early childhood education programs to low-income households; and
- \$50 million for school safety and security upgrades.

[Click here](#) to read a more detailed summary of the governor's speech.

One legislative priority that was absent from Governor Parson's budget was any discussion of a tax cut. The governor called the Legislature into a special session last fall for the specific purpose of cutting taxes. Apparently, he believes that the focus should move in this budget to spending down the budget surplus. Many legislators have filed legislation for a variety of tax cut measures. This debate will likely be a big focus of the budget process this year.

Because this is the start of new legislative session, committees must be reformed or created, and members assigned to them. Both chambers completed that process last week. Some changes that are of particular interest to MOCPA include:

- Combining the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committees;

- Moving the responsibilities for licensing legislation in the Senate from a committee on Professional Registration to the Government Oversight Committee; and
- Creating a special House Committee on Tax Reform.

Now that committees are fully formed in both chambers, look for hearings to begin in earnest this week.

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.

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe