



March 6, 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 hit some rocky patches last week but continued to make progress. The House worked through some tough issues. This week marks the final push before legislators take a one-week spring break.

The progress of legislation in the Senate so far this year has been much smoother than in recent years. That is not to say it has been totally without some tense moments. One of those occurred last week when a member disrupted the flow of legislation by not following a time-honored tradition of the Senate.

In the Senate, the majority floor leader oversees managing the flow of debate on the floor. To do that, they must ask for the cooperation of members on motions on certain bills. All legislation goes first on a formal calendar in the order it is voted out of committee. Some bills take much more debate than others, so the Senate has a procedure where a bill can be placed on an informal calendar. The floor leader can then make a motion to bring up any bill on the that calendar whenever they want. In this way, the floor leader can take controversial bills out of the flow and come back to take them up when a compromise is reached. In order for the bill to go on the informal calendar, the sponsor needs to bring it up, then make a motion to place it on the informal calendar.

Last week, the floor leader was attempting to use this method to get some routine pieces of legislation floor time but hit a snag. Senator Moon, when

called on one of his bills that was potentially very controversial, made a motion to debate the bill rather than place it on the informal calendar as asked. At that point, he controlled the floor and could have tied it up for a long time. Not to be out maneuvered, the floor leader made a motion to adjourn for the day. The next day, Senator Moon made some comments on the floor to explain his motivation, but then placed the bill on the informal calendar.

The House took up two extremely controversial bills last week. One places the control of the St. Louis Police under the control of a state board, and the other bill sets limits on foreign ownership of Missouri farmland. Both measures required significant debate on the House floor but eventually passed.

This is the last week before the legislative spring break, which marks the halfway point of the session. It is not clear at this point whether the Legislature will spend the week working on controversial measures or simply focus on getting as many non-controversial bills as possible advanced by break.

Look for a report next week updating progress at the halfway point, but there will be no report the following week.

### **Legislation of Interest**

[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.

### **Register Today!**

Attend a complimentary, virtual mid-session **Legislative Update on March 31**; 9 to 9:50 a.m. You'll receive an update from Chuck Pierce on bills MOCPA is following that could impact your business, clients and the profession. [Click here](#) to sign up!

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