

# Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

April 10, 2017

*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**

It was a big week for MOCPA. Our primary legislative priority passed the Senate. The House spent most of the week working on the budget. Governor Greitens added to his cabinet, and his committee for tax reform held a meeting.

The biggest news last week for CPAs was in the Senate. **SB 395** received final approval on Thursday with a vote of 33-0. This legislation was requested by MOCPA and was sponsored by our member, Senator Denny Hoskins, CPA. The legislation brings Missouri in line with the current version of the Uniform Accountancy Act by correcting the definition of attest and enhancing firm mobility. These changes are endorsed by the AICPA, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the MOCPA Board of Directors, and the Missouri State Board of Accountancy.

SB 395 passed the Senate this early due to Senator Hoskins' commitment to the profession's issues. The bill was on the informal calendar and did not look like it would come up for debate until sometime in the future. Last week, due to some issues with other legislation a spot opened up in the floor schedule, and Senator Hoskins nabbed it for our bill. He managed floor debate well and passed the bill with very little debate. This was due in large part to the fact that he is a CPA and trusted by his colleagues. The bill now goes to the House for a hearing and vote.

The path for SB 395 in the House may not be as smooth. These issues are not controversial, but they are not well understood by non-CPAs. There are 163 members of the House as compared to 33 in the Senate, and the House handles a lot more legislation. MOCPA will have a big education effort to get this bill through the House. This can best be achieved by members reaching out directly to their representatives. All representatives will receive detailed information from MOCPA on what the legislation does, but what can make the biggest difference to them is hearing that the bill is supported by CPAs in their district.

**Please contact your personal representative and tell him or her that you support SB 395 and its companion bill **HB 1060**.** This communication can be as simple as an email telling the representative that you support this legislation. For help in looking up your representative and his or her contact information, [click here](#). Please let us know (at [dhull@mocpa.org](mailto:dhull@mocpa.org)) if you reach out to your representative, whether you receive any feedback, or if you need additional information. **Time is critical on this as there are only five weeks left in the session.**

As expected, the House spent much of the week working on the budget, which they finished on Thursday and sent to the Senate. The Senate will now review the budget in committee and make changes. The budget will then be voted on by the entire Senate, and any differences will be worked out in conference. This process has to be completed by May 5.

Governor Greitens continued to fill his cabinet. Last week he announced the appointment of Ann Hui as the director of the Missouri Department of Labor. Hui was serving as the acting director of the Illinois Department of Labor. She is the first Asian-American in Missouri history to serve in a cabinet level position. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate. Significant positions still to be filled include the directors of Department of Social Services, MoHealthnet, and Department of Economic Development.

The governor's Committee for Simple, Fair and Low Taxes met last week. The committee laid the groundwork for how it will gather information to achieve its charge of tax reform. It agreed to solicit written comments from significant stakeholder groups as well as the general public. There was no final decision on exactly how or when that input would be gathered. MOCPA will be monitoring this process and will share more information on how you can participate as it becomes available.

### **Legislation of Interest**

To view a list of high-priority bills the MOCPA is tracking, [click here](#). The following bills had significant activity last week:

[HB 151](#) requires the Department of Revenue to issue REAL ID compliant driver's licenses unless the applicant requests a license that is not compliant with the REAL ID. The bill was heard by the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

[HB 288](#) modifies the duration of unemployment compensation, modifies the method to pay federal advances, and raises the fund trigger causing contribution rate reductions. This bill was voted do pass from the Senate Committee on Small Business and Industry.

[HB 289](#) specifies that beginning Jan. 1, 2018, certain shareholders of S corporations may elect to reject workers' compensation insurance coverage. It was voted do pass as substitute from the Senate Committee on Small Business and Industry.

[HB 502](#), modifying provisions relating to fantasy sports contests, passed the House 102-52.

[SB 18](#), modifying the law relating to business fees, was amended to include SB 183 and passed the Senate 33-0.

### **For Additional Information**

This *Government Advocacy Update* e-newsletter 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.

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