

Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

April 17, 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

There are four weeks to go in the 2017 Legislative Session. The budget continues to be hammered out in Senate committee meetings. Action on the floor at this point is tedious as more routine bills are debated. The Legislature finished the Uber/Lyft bill. The new Director of Revenue had his confirmation hearing. Both bills addressing the accountancy law saw activity last week.

MOCPA is supporting [HB 1060](#) and [SB 395](#), both of which provide updates to the Missouri Accountancy Law to comply with changes to the Uniform Accountancy Act. Last week, **HB 1060** was heard in the House Professional Registration Committee. **SB 395** was assigned to the House General Laws Committee and will have a hearing this Tuesday. It is important that House members hear from as many CPAs as possible on these bills. Thank you to the many of you who have already contacted your state representative to indicate your support. If you have not yet, please do so as time is critical with only four weeks left in the session. The bills will likely be up for a potential floor vote after next week. Your 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) if you reach out to your representative, whether you receive any feedback, or if you need additional information.

The Senate was busy last week in committee working on the budget. Most of the mark-up is complete, and the bills will likely be introduced later this week. The actual floor debate is expected next week. This would give the Legislature two weeks of floor time to get the final budget approved by the Constitutional deadline of May 5. Considering the major issues yet to be resolved, this will not be a small task.

The Senate Committee on Gubernatorial Appointments held a hearing Wednesday for the new Director of Revenue Joel Walters, CPA. He has an impressive résumé and is considered well qualified for the position. He has spent much of his time since being appointed meeting with senators. These efforts appeared to have paid off as his hearing was very positive. He pledged to the senators to work toward making the department more transparent and consistent in its policies. His confirmation is expected to be voted on by the committee this week.

Both chambers worked to finish the bill establishing statewide regulations for transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft. This bill faced a lot of opposition when first presented on the Senate floor, but the parties worked out an agreeable compromise. When it came up last week, there were some amendments made but no contentious debate. After passing the Senate, the House took up the bill and passed it with the Senate amendments. The bill now goes to the governor.

The rest of the action on the House floor was focused on advancing House bills to the Senate. Much of debate at this point in the session is to vet legislation that may not make it as a standalone bill. This sets the stage for proposing this legislation as amendments to other bills in the last few weeks of the session.

Legislation of Interest

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

[SB 66](#), modifying provisions of law relating to workers' compensation, voted do pass from the House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight.

[SB 113](#) modifies the law relating to the discharge of employees under workers' compensation statutes. It was voted do pass from the House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight.

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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