

*Protecting Your Interests*

May 7, 2018

*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, Governor Greiten's situation once again dominated the news cycle. Although this is the primary focus of media attention, the Legislature is doing its best to focus its attention on legislative priorities. Budget chairs of both chambers met in private to work out compromises between the House and Senate budget priorities in advance of presenting them to the conference committees. Both chambers spent time, including sessions stretching into the evening, debating and advancing legislation. Two MOCPA members were confirmed to the Missouri State Board of Accountancy.

There were two significant developments last week in the ongoing saga of the governor. The first was the release on Wednesday of the second report from the House Investigative Committee. The report focused on activities surrounding the use of the donor list from a not for profit by the governor's campaign. These findings were not favorable to the governor and added to the problems of the first indictment by providing additional concerns for legislators as well as evidence of matters that could result in added criminal charges.

The Legislature answered the question of how it plans to handle these matters last week when leadership of both chambers offered a resolution calling for a special session. In a process that has not been used before, the Legislature filed a resolution calling for a special session. The purpose of the special session is to investigate charges against the governor and determine if discipline, including impeachment, is warranted. The resolution was signed by 138 of 163 Representatives and 29 of 34 Senators. The special session is scheduled to begin 30 minutes after adjournment of the regular session on May 18. The details of how they will proceed have not been set. This will likely be determined based on the results of the governor's criminal trial on May 14 and any additional reports from the House Investigative Committee.

The announcement of a special session clears up the uncertainty of whether the process of impeachment would detract from normal legislative activities. Scheduling the special session to begin at the end of the regular session means the legislators can spend the last two weeks of session focusing on normal legislative priorities. Most legislation and the budget are passed in the last two weeks of session. If the Legislature had opted to begin the consideration of impeachment during the

end of the regular session, it would have left little time for anything else.

The budget must be adopted by this Friday, May 11. In preparation for the final review of the budget, the House and Senate committee chairmen spent much of last week in private meetings with their staffs to hammer out the details of the budget. It is reported that much progress was made and the public hearings for the budget are scheduled for this week. While details are sketchy at this point, all indications are the House and Senate will work through the process and meet the Friday deadline.

With just two weeks left of the regular session, following legislation becomes difficult. Most of the work is done on the floor, and the Legislature frequently works late into the night. During the floor debate, many bills are heavily amended attaching bills that are not moving onto bills that are. Because of late nights and heavy volume, there can be time lags before the final information is available online. Also, the amendment process may cause us to add new bills to our tracking list.

One of the regular legislative duties of the Senate is the confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to boards and commission. The Senate fulfilled that duty this week by confirming two new members to the State Board of Accountancy. MOCPA members Nick Myers and Phil Slinkard were confirmed to replace MOCPA members Bob Helm and Jeanne Dee. Congratulations to Nick and Phil on their appointment. Many thanks to Bob and Jeanne for their years of service to the profession.

### **Legislation of Interest**

To view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking, along with their most recent activity and current status, [click here](#). The following bills had significant activity this week:

[HB 1500](#), modifying provisions relating to the practice of cosmetology and barbering, has been added to the list of bills we are monitoring. It was amended on the floor to include the provisions that were contained in [HB 1928](#), which changes the laws relating to professional registration. The bill as amended was truly agreed and finally passed.

[HB 1554](#), allowing persons with certain serious medical conditions to use medical cannabis, was passed by the House 112 to 44.

[SB 590](#), modifying the Historic Preservation Tax Credit, was reported do pass by the House Rules committee.

[SB 644](#), creating new provisions relating to unclaimed property, was truly agreed and finally passed.

[SB 674](#), modifying several provisions relating to taxation, was voted do pass as amended by the House Ways and Means Committee.

[SB 768](#), allowing telephone companies to select an alternate method of property tax assessment, was amended and passed in the House 128 to 6. The bill now goes back to the Senate for approval of the amendments.

[SB 894](#), establishing a statewide STEM career awareness program and enacting new provisions of law related to computer science, was truly agreed and finally passed.

### **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.

### **Related Links**

- Become a [Legislative Keyperson](#)
- Contribute to [MO CPA-PAC](#)

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe