

# Government Advocacy Update



Protecting Your Interests

May 1, 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

The Senate finished its work on the budget last week. The House continued to send legislation to the Senate. MOCPA's legislation advanced in committee.

The Senate spent a good part of the week debating and passing its version of the budget. Because the Senate made changes to the budget passed by the House, the budget now goes to a conference committee to work out the differences. There are many differences, but they likely can be worked out this week, allowing the final budget to be passed by the constitutional deadline of May 5.

The budget process in the Senate took an unexpected turn. Typically, the budget is worked out in committee, the bills are presented on the floor, and they are voted on without amendment. The reason for this is a combination of respect for the process and practicality in getting the budget done. Because the budget must be balanced, it is difficult to amend on the floor. An amendment increasing spending could be approved without a corresponding amendment to decrease another area. Which is what happened this year. An amendment was offered to increase spending to schools to fully fund the foundation formula. There was no corresponding reducing amendment, so the final budget adopted by the Senate is technically not balanced. This is not a big problem because the conference committee can make changes to it, but it does create pressure on the committees.

While the Senate ground away on the budget, the House continued to churn out legislation. This is filling up the Senate calendar and creating a back log. There are some parliamentary challenges the Senate must navigate during the last two weeks to move legislation. If everyone cooperates, this can happen. If not, the Senate may adjourn on May 12 leaving a lot of bills to die on the calendar.

MOCPA's key legislation continued to advance last week. [SB 395](#) was voted do pass without amendment by the House General Laws Committee. The bill is expected to be heard this week by the Rules Committee. If approved there, it goes to the House for a vote. Also, last week, MOCPA's changes were amended onto [SB 125](#), which became an omnibus licensing bill. It must be approved by the Rules Committee, then it too goes to the House for a full vote—thus giving us two realistic shots at passage.

**Your help at this point is critical.** If all goes well in the committees, the House will be voting on our legislation. This could come at any time—even as early as the end of this week. It is crucial that House members hear from CPAs who live or work in their district, letting them know they support this legislation. For contact information of your representative, [click here](#). Please let us know (at [dhull@mocpa.org](mailto:dhull@mocpa.org)) once you've reached out to your representative.

## Legislation of Interest

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

[HB 51](#) authorizes county commissions that are trustees for a cemetery trust fund to utilize investment managers to invest, reinvest, and manage fund assets. This bill was truly agreed to and finally passed.

[HB 815](#) has been heavily amended by the Senate Professional Registration Committee and is now an omnibus licensing bill.

[HB 849](#) changes the laws regarding financial transaction reporting so that certain requirements of transportation development districts also apply to political subdivisions. It was voted do pass by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

[SB 18](#) was amended by the House Special Committee on Small Business. It now includes language to correct the result of the Supreme Court decision last year that impacts telecommunication companies.

[SB 326](#), creating new provisions relating to low-profit limited liability corporations, was voted do pass as substitute from the House Committee on General Laws.

## 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 [website](#) or contact [Dena Hull](#) at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

## Related Information

- Attend MOCPA's Legislation and Government Advocacy [Committee meeting](#) on May 19
- Become a [Legislative Keyperson](#)
- Contribute to [MO CPA-PAC](#)

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