

May 6, 2024

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 spent all of the floor debate last week locked in a filibuster on one of the key bills of the session, the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA). The House, still waiting for the Senate to approve the budget, continued to work on its own bills. The Legislature is up against a tight timeline to approve the budget. MOCPA's top legislative priority only needs a vote in the Senate to make it across the finish line, and there is still time to contact your state senator.

The Senate took up a key bill last week, the extension of the FRA. This legislation authorizes a tax that is used to fund the state's portion of Medicaid. Its passage was an integral part of the budget. When the bill came up for debate it became the focus of a filibuster by a group of conservatives who call themselves the freedom caucus. This group has regularly slowed down the legislative process this session, and this debate was less about the issues of the FRA but primarily about other legislative priorities of the freedom caucus. After 40 hours of filibustering, the bill was approved.

Spending the entire week on the FRA has put the Legislature up against the deadline for approving the budget. The constitutional deadline for approving the budget is this Friday, May 10. The entire budget must be approved by the Senate and then any differences between the House version worked out in conference committees. There are substantial differences between the House and Senate versions, and the freedom caucus has vowed a lengthy floor debate in the Senate.

The House continues to wait on the Senate to advance the budget before it starts working on Senate bills. This impasse is likely to continue this week. Even if things go well, it will take almost all week to get the budget finished.

This scenario sets up a last-minute melee of final votes on legislation next week. The MOCPA legislative priority addressing the pass-through entity tax, **HB 1912**, is positioned to be passed if this melee occurs. The bill is currently on the Senate calendar for the third reading of House Bills. The calendar will get adjusted this week, but it is unlikely that the Senate will take up many non-budget bills this week. If the Senate can finish the budget this week without a complete breakdown, it will likely try to pass House bills next week. The bill is likely to only get a limited amount of floor time, so it is important that all Senators know this is important to CPAs in their area.

Please contact your state senator and ask them to vote for [HB 1912](#). Here is the guide on how to do that:

- If you are not sure who your state senator is, look them up here <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default>.
- Contact Dena Hull dhull@mocpa.org to obtain suggested talking points and to let her know which senator(s) you are contacting.
- Let Dena know if you get any feedback on your email.

This process can be done in less than 30 minutes and could have a big impact on passage of the bill.

Legislation of Interest

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. Bills are being heavily amended at this point in the session, 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 as it may have changed.

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.

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