

January 27, 2025

In order to be responsive to the latest legislative developments, MOCPA continually monitors proposed legislation. We utilize 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.

## **Session Update**

The Legislature kicked off its 2025 session on Wednesday, January 8. The first few weeks of session have been subdued, filled with ceremonial procedures as all 163 members of the House, including 54 new House members (38 Republicans and 13 Democrats), and half of the Senate, including 10 new Senators (7 Republicans and 3 Democrats), were sworn into office, and pre-filed legislation was read for the first time. New leaders in both chambers were also formally elected to their positions.

On Monday, January 13, Governor Mike Kehoe was sworn in, and he shared some of his priorities, which focus on public safety, education, tax cuts, and crime control. He will expand on this tomorrow during his State of the State address. Two CPAs were also sworn into statewide offices—Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State; and David Wasinger, Lieutenant Governor. There is also one CPA in the House of Representatives, Mike McGirl, who represents the 118th District encompassing Franklin and Washington Counties. Rep. McGirl was elected to his first two-year term in November 2018. In addition, MOCPA member Lyda Krewson, CPA, former St. Louis Mayor, was confirmed to serve on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. She was picked for the board by Gov. Mike Parson last year, but has been serving in an interim position after the Senate failed to take action on her appointment last year.

Committees have also been assigned and both chambers established new rules and procedures that dictate how each chamber operates. Soon after, bill referrals began moving through the legislative process.

It's too early in the session to have any predictions on what might get done, but there will be more clarity after Gov. Kehoe's State of the State. Issues that MOCPA's government advocacy team continue to keep an eye on include:

- · Bills that reduce or eliminate taxes to ensure they don't pose threat for tax on services;
- · Mandates on HR policies such as required sick leave; and
- · Restrictions on private business DEI policies.

## Legislation of Interest

Again, this session, a group of MOCPA members is meeting weekly with the society's government advocacy team to provide technical guidance on legislative that could impact the profession.

<u>Click here</u> to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. New bills are filed daily, 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.

## **For Additional Information**

This *Government Advocacy Update* will continue regularly through the legislative session. If you have any questions on our legislative efforts, please visit our <u>government advocacy</u> <u>web page</u>, or contact <u>Dena Hull</u> at (800) 264-7966, ext. 105.

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