



March 10, 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**

With one week left before the legislative spring break, both the House and Senate worked longer hours than normal last week to work through various pieces of legislation. The Senate worked on legislation dealing with the age of marriage, mental health courts, agriculture tax credits, youth services within the Department of Social Services, and an omnibus public safety bill.

The House once again worked methodically through several bills, giving first round approval to 15 different pieces of legislation and sending 13 to the Senate. Among those bills debated in the House were legislation dealing with capping increases in property assessments, omnibus taxing districts, elimination of the income tax, omnibus health care, and school transportation. Along with the floor activity, the House continued its rigorous committee hearing schedule with over 35 committee hearings taking place last week.

This pace is expected to continue this week as the Legislature heads into the legislative spring break. The General Assembly will be on Spring Break from March 17-21 and will resume activities on March 24.

### **Legislation of Interest**

[Click here](#) to view the complete list of high-priority bills MOCPA is currently tracking. The deadline for filing new bills has passed, but bills are regularly amended. The list is updated each week to reflect any changes. Be sure to check the list regularly to look for legislation that may be of interest to you or your clients.

A few bills of interest that had activity last week include:

- **Criminal Background Checks:** [HB 992](#), which specifies that if an application for a license or permit requires a fingerprint submission, the applicant must submit his or her fingerprint to the State Highway Patrol for the purpose of undergoing a state and federal criminal background check, was heard by the House Committee on Professional Registration. **NOTE**—This does not apply to CPAs as they are not required to submit fingerprints.

- **Income Tax Elimination:** [HB 798](#) seeks to simplify income tax collections by implementing a flat tax rate, removes all tax deduction triggers and all existing taxable income brackets, and repeals the Missouri Working Family Tax Credit Act. During House floor debate last week, the bill was amended to add provisions that phase out capital gains, modify penalties for tax penalties incurred when a tax credit cap is reached, lower the corporate income tax rate, and modify pregnancy and maternity homes and diaper bank tax credits. The modified bill was perfected.
- **Property Taxes—Delinquent:** [SB 388](#), which repeals prohibitions on allowing certain individuals from purchasing delinquent properties at a land auction, was passed in the Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions. Modifications were adopted to provide a method for property owners in certain areas to bring a nuisance action against another property owner; and to repeal prohibitions to keep land bank agencies from purchasing certain properties.
- **Tax Credit—Benevolent:** [HB 828](#), which aligns with [SB 67](#), exempts taxpayers from penalties or interest on an income tax balance due if the taxpayer is denied part or all of a tax credit which they have qualified for due to the lack of available funds for the credit. The bill was passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means.

### **MOCPA's Call to Action: Tax on Professional Services**

During the gubernatorial race, Governor Kehoe campaigned on reducing the state income tax. While he has not provided specifics on how to accomplish this, some legislators have drafted proposals to replace the state income tax with an expanded sales tax base—which would upend Missouri's entire tax structure, creating uncertainty for businesses and professionals alike.

MOCPA has long been at the forefront of this issue, and member assistance is needed as we continue in this battle. Please let us know if you have a relationship with a legislator, and if you're willing to participate in outreach efforts to educate legislators on the consequences of taxing professional services. Please contact Dena Hull at [dhull@mocpa.org](mailto:dhull@mocpa.org) to get involved or if you have questions.

### **For Additional Information**

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

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