Sept. 18, 1820

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Sept. 18, 1820.

History was made on this day, as the First Regular Session of the First General Assembly was called to order at the Missouri Hotel in St. Louis. The 14 state senators and 57 state representatives were sent there by voters the previous month.

It was this group of lawmakers who put together the first official laws of Missouri, as a state. The first few bills went by rather quickly. The first outlined how United States senators would be elected, and the second spelled out job descriptions for county sheriffs.

It was the fourth measure that would be returned by the governor. This bill established the pay rate for the Legislature at $4 per day, plus $3 for every 25 miles. In addition, the president of the Senate and House speaker would be paid an additional dollar per day. The governor said that was too much, and the Legislature overrode the veto in October.

The first session consisted of 86 total days, and ended on Dec. 12, 1820.

September 18, 1820, the date marking the beginning of the First Regular Session of the First General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *A History of Missouri*, by Eugene Morrow Violette, and the Missouri State Historical Society)