**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on SB 572**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review a municipal court reform measure set to become law…

**Nat Snd / Runs :04 / OC: taxation by citation.**

*“End the practice, which I — and many others — have come to call ‘taxation by citation.’”*

[Senate Bill 572](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246557) was sent to the executive branch on May 12. The measure was signed into law on June 17.

When bill sponsor — Sen. Eric Schmitt of Glendale — presented his proposal to the Senate [Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/JOBS/) on Jan. 13, he said local officials had started to find new ways to replace revenue that was lost after [Senate Bill 5](http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=160) became law last year…

**Schmitt 1 / Runs :11 / OC: passed last year.**

*“Limit the ability of a city, what they can gather from all ordinance violations — essentially including not just moving violations, but non-moving violations in the caps that we passed last year.”*

He adds what these officials have done amounts to the targeting of individual groups…

**Schmitt 2 / Runs :18 / OC: more from citizens.**

*“This reform will further protect all residents, especially those most disadvantaged, from being taken advantage of by these profiteering tactics. This legislation is necessary to follow up on those historic reforms we passed last year and avoiding an enterprise of extracting more and more from citizens.”*

Senator Schmitt equates this to criminalizing poverty…

**Schmitt 3 / Runs :18 / OC: or mismatched blinds.**

*“Some government officials are clinging to power. Never mind that the very residents that they claim to represent are the very folks who find themselves ensnared in this system. No one should go to jail, or have their housing, or their child’s education put in jeopardy because of a battle with local government about paint being chipped or mismatched blinds.”*

When Senate Bill 572 was first debated on the Missouri Senate floor on Jan. 26, Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur talked about a family who had been affected by these local changes…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :12 / OC: said three days.**

*“Being continuously fined. They rectified — they corrected — all those problems, and yet the fines didn’t go away that the gentleman had served in jail for, think he said three days.”*

Through an amendment to the measure, Sen. Jason Holsman of Kansas City felt a need to separate his hometown…

**Holsman 5 / Runs :21 / OC: this bill notwithstanding.**

*“Essentially, a city a size of Kansas City’s municipal court often functions like a circuit court, and it takes in a variety of cases that go beyond simple zoning ordinance cases. This is just clarifying language that says that any ordinance in statute — state statute — that allows for prosecution will continue to be allowed to prosecute, even though the passage of this bill notwithstanding.”*

Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal of University City adds there are some towns that are losing their bond ratings…

**Chappelle-Nadal 6 / Runs :05 / OC: that financial encumbrance.**

*“The state would not be liable for any of that financial encumbrance.”*

Senate Bill 572 will become law on Aug. 28.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a complete list of [Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/TrulyAgreed.aspx?SessionType=R) legislation — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.