**The Senate Minute: Digital Audio File Script on SB 623 and SB 786**

Funding Missouri roads may be closer to a solution.

Missouri senators gave preliminary approval to [Senate Bill 623](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246467), which — upon voter approval — would raise the state’s gas tax from 17- to 22.9 cents per gallon.

Sponsor, Sen. Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff, says the original proposal would have raised the tax without voter approval…

**Libla 1 / Runs :10 / OC: worth of history**

*“Since 1924, motor fuel user tax IS the way we have invested in our highways, period. That is 92 years’ worth of history.”*

First-round approval is also given to [Senate Bill 786](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22400059), which would modify the law relating to the prosecution of election offenses.

Senator Scott Sifton of Affton tells the sponsor he can see the need for this legislation…

**Sifton 2 / Runs :09 / OC: a stand-alone bill.**

*“I’ve also carried legislation to increase the penalties for certain kinds of election misconduct. I understand and respect you want to carry this as a stand-alone bill.”*

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