**This Week in the Missouri Senate:  
Digital Audio File Script on FY 2017 Budget**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget for the Show-Me State…

**Nat Snd / Runs :06 / OC: budget. It’s balanced.**

*“We got 13 core budget bills done, along with the supplemental. Very happy with how that came out and I think it’s a good budget. It’s balanced.”*

Missouri’s new fiscal year started today.

Outgoing [Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) Chair, Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia, says part of the budget includes changes in health care spending…

**Schaefer 1 / Runs :12 / OC: do an RFP.**

*“A number of years, we’ve had managed care along the I-70 corridor. All the rest of the state is fee for service on Medicaid. But, the thing is, is you’ve got managed care providers on the I-70 corridor who been doing it for years — but, OA [the* [*Office of Administration*](https://oa.mo.gov/)*] has to go out and do an RFP [Request for Proposal].”*

He adds, originally, the [University of Missouri](http://missouri.edu/) would have seen dramatic cuts…

**Schaefer 2 / Runs :15 / OC: to one million.**

*“We restored the 6 percent performance funding for all the institutions — from the 2 percent up to 6, for the rest of them — and then zero up to six for Mizzou. And then, on top of that, we put the million dollars back in for the Mizzou campus that the House had cut. And then, took the $7.6 million cut for system wide administration to one million [dollars].”*

Senator Schaefer also says [Medicaid](https://www.medicaid.gov/) is getting more money…

**Schaefer 3 / Runs :20 / OC: need to be.**

*“The difficulty there is, you know, their entitlements and the dollars are what the feds say you have to pay. And, so, I still disagree with the policy of committing so much money to just one program. But, we tried to be reasonable, in light of what we are legally responsible to pay. I would rather spend less on that and more on things like public education. But, the legal obligations of what we have to pay in Medicaid, I think we’re probably about where we need to be.”*

During final Missouri Senate debate on the budget, on April 21, Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur pointed out funding had been moved away from Planned Parenthood…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :11 / OC: take in isolation.**

*“But, we have a bigger picture that we need to look at as a state. And, one of the things I think we sometimes forget to do is look at how the big picture is affected by the actions we take in isolation.”*

Senator Jason Holsman of Kansas City says he thought [TANF](http://dss.mo.gov/fsd/temporary-assistance.htm) changes made last year would be reflected in the new budget…

**Holsman 5 / Runs :20 / OC: welfare to work.**

*“Senator, when we worked on the TANF bill together, it was my understanding — and one of the reasons why I helpful in that process — was that the savings that would derive from the reduction in eligibility would end up going to transportation, child care and moving these families from welfare to work.”*

Senator Shalonn “Kiki” Curls of Kansas City adds Missouri is last in the country in Medicaid qualification…

**Curls 6 / Runs :24 / OC: a long time.**

*“A single mom with two kids cannot make any more than $293 a month, for her to be able to qualify for Medicaid, and that is one of the reasons as well that many of us have still historically had issues — you know — with* [*House Bill [20]11*](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB2011&year=2016&code=R)*. And, I realize how much more we’re spending on the programs. I’m certain that other states have had increases in the costs of their Medicaid program as well, and they’re managing. So, in has been something we’ve been concerned about for a long time.”*

Missouri’s Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget totals $27 billion.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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