April 1, 1872

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was April 1, 1872, the last day of the 26th General Assembly’s adjourned session.

Over the years, the start and end dates for legislative sessions have changed, from the beginning of November to the beginning of January. Also, early on, the Missouri General Assembly only met every other year — unless a special session was called.

In the mid to late 1800s, lawmakers started to return for added time, in between their biennial regular sessions. These were called “adjourned sessions.” In the case of the 26th General Assembly, the regular session was held between Jan. 4 and March 20, 1871. The adjourned session started on Dec. 6, 1871.

According to the Missouri Senate journal, bills were passed that addressed relationships between cities, counties and railroads; created a license tax on dogs; provided for public safety, in case of fires at public buildings; and revised the state revenue law. Also, two constitutional amendments were proposed: one to regulate the investment of school funds; and the other to increase the number of state supreme court justices from three to five, and to double their terms to 10 year. Both of these amendments would be ratified by voters in November of 1872.

But, it would take the work of an adjourned session to accomplish this, and it was adjourned on April 1, 1872, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: Missouri Senate Journal)