**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Committee Hearings**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review more priority legislation, as lawmakers complete the third week of the 2016 legislative session…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :04 / OC: a committee meeting.**

*“It’s been a long time since this body has discussed this issue in a committee meeting.”*

Tuesday was a busy day for lawmakers.

The Missouri Senate [General Laws and Pensions Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/genl/) heard testimony on [Senate Bill 816](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22749318), a measure that would repeal the death penalty in the Show-Me State.

Senator Paul Wieland of Imperial is the sponsor…

**Wieland 1 / Runs :11 / OC: until natural death.**

*“One of my motivations was defending human life, and it seems to me that if I’m going to be a pro-life person and defend human life, I need to defend not just the earliest stages of life, but also all the way until natural death.”*

During debate, Senate Minority Floor Leader Joseph Keaveny of St. Louis told the sponsor he supports the idea…

**Keaveny 2 / Runs :08 / OC: effective deterrent, right?**

*“If the death penalty is truly a deterrent, we wouldn’t be executing anybody, would we? Just by the fact that we’re still executing people, it’s not an effective deterrent, right?”*

No action has been taken on Senate Bill 816…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :07 / OC: photo ID requirement.**

*“Senate Joint Resolution No. 20 is a simple, constitutional amendment that would allow the General Assembly to implement a photo ID requirement.”*

Another Tuesday committee hearing focused on voter ID.

Senator Will Kraus of Lee’s Summit presented [Senate Joint Resolution 20](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246564), which would modify provisions of law as they relate to voter photo identification, and [Senate Bill 594](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246565), which would modify the law relating to voting procedures…

**Kraus 3 / Runs :11 / OC: possible voting fraud.**

*“In April 2015, Greene County prosecutor received complaints about a woman double-voting. In the same April election, mayor-elect in Kinloch was barred from taking office due to possible voting fraud.”*

During debate held by the Missouri Senate [Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/FINA/), Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur wondered about the cost of implementing voter ID…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :07 / OC: is not appropriated?**

*“In the bill itself, it talks about these photo IDs are going to be paid for subject to appropriation. What if money is not appropriated?”*

Committee action has not yet been taken on Senate Joint Resolution 20 or Senate Bill 594.

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :03 / OC: governor has proposed.**

*“This is the largest spending increase this governor has proposed.”*

Also this week, Missouri lawmakers heard the budget plan from the executive branch.

The annual State of the State address outlines the year past and what could be ahead.

After the speech, [Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) Chair — Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia — addressed mental health spending, which he says was increased for the current fiscal year…

**Schaefer 5 / Runs :09 / OC: release that money.**

*“The Missouri Legislature put $70 million for new mental health programs in this year’s budget, to start Jan. 1 and go to the last six months of the year. The governor won’t release that money.”*

Senator Schupp says she is pleased to hear the governor repeat the need for affordable health care…

**Schupp 6 / Runs :08 / OC: accessible health care.**

*“He is talking about, once again, Medicaid expansion. There are 300,000 people who do not have affordable, accessible health care.”*

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.