***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: First Half**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review another busy week, as lawmakers move to their mid-session recess…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :01 / OC: for House Bill.**

*“…Substitute for House Bill….”*

The week began with hours spent on a measure aimed at public-sector employees.

Senator Bob Onder of Lake St. Louis handles [House Bill 251](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB251&year=2017&code=R) in the upper chamber…

**Onder 1 / Runs :11 / OC: the public sector.**

*“Much of the discussion of labor reform this session has been devoted to private-sector labor issues, such as Right to Work and prevailing wage, but just as important is labor reform in the public sector.”*

During discussion, Sen. Jason Holsman of Kansas City called this proposal another example of how this session is — in his words — the “opposition session”…

**Holsman 2 / Runs :09 / OC: the majority’s agenda.**

*“Almost every bill that we’ve heard so far has been, in some way, an attempt to stamp out — or weaken — those who disagree with the majority’s agenda.”*

Late Monday night, House Bill 251 was set aside for future talk.

It was brought back the following evening.

During the second evening of discussions, Sen. Scott Sifton of Affton said he believes this proposal follows a pattern…

**Sifton 3 / Runs :07 / OC: another after another.**

*“There have been a handful of bills that have been something other than working to make life harder for Missouri workers, but, it has been one bill after another.”*

House Bill 251 has been set aside for future talks…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :01 / OC: with Senate Committee.**

*“Ten, with Senate Committee….”*

This week also saw lengthy debate on a measure aimed at enhancing job training in Missouri.

Senator Jay Wasson of Nixa sponsors [Senate Bill 10](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095414), legislation that seeks to modify the [Missouri Works](https://ded.mo.gov/programs/business/missouri-works) and [Missouri Works Training](http://business.mo.gov/training/) programs…

**Wasson 4 / Runs :11 / OC: to your state.**

*“’Do you have a well-trained workforce?’ That is in the top two or three questions, whether they’re a company that is already in your state and expanding, or whether they’re a company that is considering coming to your state.”*

Missouri senators gave preliminary approval to Senate Bill 10 on Tuesday evening. Late Thursday morning, the proposal was sent to the Missouri House of Representatives for similar consideration…

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :01 / OC: the expert witness.**

*“…House Bill 153 is the ‘expert witness….’”*

Additionally, a measure designed to update another aspect of rules that govern Missouri courtrooms moves through the Missouri Senate.

Senator Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff handles [House Bill 153](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB153&year=2017&code=R), which would modify provisions relating to expert witnesses…

**Libla 5 / Runs :11 / OC: to be reliable?**

*“The question House Bill 153 is answering is this: ‘How do we know if an expert witness is truly an expert, if the information he or she testifies to to be reliable?’”*

During discussion, Sen. Sifton mentioned he has had concerns about this in past years…

**Sifton 6 / Runs :09 / OC: a three-year process.**

*“I kind of analogize the process that we’ve gone through to what we did on the medical malpractice cap bill. Just so happened that was also a three-year process.”*

House Bill 153 has been Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed. It now awaits executive branch action…

**Nat Snd 4 / Runs :01 / OC: business coming before.**

*“…No further business coming before….”*

Lawmakers are currently on mid-session recess, and will return to Jefferson City on March 20.

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 from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.