***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: 2018 Missouri Budget**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the second-to-last week of the First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :08 / OC: should have had.**

Senator Richard: *“Optimistic about a budget passing. Even exceeded my expectations.”*

Senator Schupp: *“$450 million was taken out of that original budget that we should have had.”*

Missouri’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget takes center stage once again in the Missouri Senate.

The constitutional deadline for having the $27.8 billion financial plan to the executive branch this year is 6 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

[Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) Chair, Sen. Dan Brown of Rolla, says the panel faced perennial questions going into this year’s budget…

**Brown 1 / Runs :04 / OC: cost of Medicaid?**

*“How do we meet the, and manage, the ever-rising costs of* [*Medicaid*](https://www.medicaid.gov/)*?”*

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur adds she is concerned with the elderly and those Missourians who need care…

**Schupp 2 / Runs :05 / OC: much more money?**

*“Is it going to land them in nursing homes that are going, in the long-term, end up costing the state much more money?”*

Senator Dan Hegeman of Cosby, who serves on the Appropriations panel, says one aspect of the budget is most encompassing…

**Hegeman 3 / Runs :04 / OC: grows every year.**

*“Deal with the* [*Medicaid*](https://www.medicaid.gov/) *budget, seems like it grows and grows and grows every year.”*

Senator Schupp says several voices are heard in making the state financial plan…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :05 / OC: as a Legislature.**

*“The budget reflects our priorities and our priorities as a Legislature.”*

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :02 / OC: House Bill 2.**

*“Conference committee for House Bill 2….”*

Conference committee work wrapped up in one day.

This gives a final opportunity for both Missouri Senate and House members to make a final pitch for items…

**Nasheed 5 / Runs :06 / OC: into the budget.**

*“And, it’s a line item that the chairman said he would allow to go into the budget.”*

Senator Brown pointed out to Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis there are 1,500 line items in the budget…

**Brown 6 / Runs :02 / OC: in the budget.**

*“There’s a lot of people had to give up some things in the budget.”*

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :02 / OC: got a decent.**

*“I think we’ve got a decent….”*

The budget now sits on the governor’s desk.

Fiscal Year 2018 will start on Saturday, July 1…

**Nat Snd 4 / Runs :02 / OC: we’ll call the.**

*“(SFX in) Okay, we’ll call the….”*

More priority legislation is making its way through committee.

The [Missouri Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/rjrr/) — Tuesday morning — heard [Senate Bill 73](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095429), a measure that seeks to create the "Dark Money Disclosure Act.”

Sponsor — Sen. Rob Schaaf of St. Joseph — says his proposal would require the original funding source to be disclosed, if the dollar amount in question totals 500 or more…

**Schaaf 7 / Runs :07 / OC: how to vote.**

*“Without disclosure, voters lack the information that they need to have when making decisions about how to vote.”*

Senator Jason Holsman of Kansas City pointed out a court ruling changed the rules for 501(c)(4) organizations…

**Holsman 8 / Runs :08 / OC: applied to you.**

*“And, you do not engage in political activity — using the name of a candidate or the name of an elected official — then these disclosure requirements are not applied to you.”*

Committee action has not yet been taken on Senate Bill 73.

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.