**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Session Recap**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the major issues from the Second Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :02 / OC: (SFX out)**

*“(SFX in)…”*

Easing restrictions on carrying legal firearms was among one of the items on the priority list for some Missouri senators this year.

In the end, [Senate Bill 656](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246426) was the measure that garnered enough support and went to the executive branch.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin says it was decided the proposal would be debated on the final day of session…

**Richard 1 / Runs :06 / OC: we had time.**

*“The caucus felt it was a priority that they would wish that we’d spend some time on it and thought that we had time.”*

But outgoing Senate Minority Floor Leader Joseph Keaveny of St. Louis says he’s opposed to the idea of more people having the ability to carry concealed weapons…

**Keaveny 2 / Runs :08 / OC: of their car.**

*“A person from outstate Missouri comes to St. Louis to go to the ballgame or the casino. They bring their gun with them to St. Louis. They can’t bring them in the ball park, they can’t bring them into the casino. So, what do they do? They stick it under the seat of their car.”*

Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City adds some people have made the argument there was not much abortion-related legislation this year…

**Kehoe 3 / Runs :17 / OC: important to us.**

*“There wasn’t any specific reason why. I would agree with the rest of my colleagues that our advancements in defunding* [*Planned Parenthood*](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/)*, the* [*Sanctity of Life Committee*](http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/comm/interim/sisl.htm) *— which led to the subpoenas. And, so just because one particular year, a particular piece of pro-life legislation doesn’t move across the finish line doesn’t mean life’s not important to us.”*

Along those lines, Sen. Keaveny says what some people considered a major scandal quickly turned into what he calls “nothing”…

**Keaveny 4 / Runs :16 / OC: videos were released.**

*“As time passed — and this investigation proceeded, from the attorney general — there was some question as to the validity of those videos. The topic was covered and discussed more and more. I think the sense of urgency probably wasn’t as great as it was the day those abhorrent videos were released.”*

Senator Richard says, overall, it is common to hear “you didn’t do enough” as much as they hear “you did too much”…

**Richard 5 / Runs :08 / OC: end of it.**

*“You can do what I can get 18 votes on. I think, when you have a partnership up front, that we could pass something together as a start — a beginning. That’s not the end of it.”*

Senator Keaveny also says senators were able to work well together, despite some disagreements…

**Keaveny 6 / Runs :17 / OC: this happen again.**

*“I’m actually very happy with this session. When I came in, in January, I think I said, ‘It was with great trepidation.’ I didn’t know what to expect. And then, with the meltdown over* [*SJR 39*](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=28205321) *— in my own mind — I was thinking, ‘Oh, we’re going back down this path again.’ And, I think the leadership came to the conclusion, ‘We can’t let this happen again.’”*

The governor has until July 14 to sign, veto or let legislation from this session become law without his signature…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :07 / OC: to the constitution (SFX out).**

*“No further business coming before the body, I move that the Senate stand adjourned sine die, pursuant to the* [*[Missouri] constitution*](http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/moconstn.html)*. (SFX out).”*

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a complete list of [Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/TrulyAgreed.aspx?SessionType=R) legislation — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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