**This Week in the Missouri Senate:  
Digital Audio File Script on Ethics Reform**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review ethics reform laws that are now on the books…

**Nat Snd / Runs :03 / OC: our ethics bill.**

*“What this bill was was our ethics bill.”*

House Bills [1979](http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB1979&year=2016&code=R), [1983](http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB1983&year=2016&code=R) and [2203](http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB2203&year=2016&code=R) all makes changes to different aspects of campaigning and running elections in Missouri, and all three were passed fairly early during the Second Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly.

House Bill 1979 provides what’s called a “cooling off period” before certain people can become lobbyists. It says lawmakers cannot become lobbyists until at least six months after leaving office.

Missouri senators gave final approval on April 20 and the governor signed it on May 6.

House Bill 1983 deals with political consultants.

The measure received final Missouri Senate passage on March 29 and the executive branch’s nod on April 14.

Senator Brian Munzlinger of Williamstown handled the proposal in the upper chamber…

**Munzlinger 1 / Runs :09 / OC: paid political consultant.**

*“Basically says that while we are in office — as a legislator — you cannot run a campaign, you cannot be a paid political consultant.”*

During final Missouri Senate debate, Sen. Scott Sifton of Affton praised the way the Missouri Senate-House conference committee worked…

**Sifton 2 / Runs :13 / OC: view an improvement.**

*“We actually had a very protracted discussion about a pretty technical aspect of the bill, and there was a great exchange. We talked about some of the nitty gritty on the bill and the change we would up coming up with — I think was, in my view — an improvement.”*

House Bill 2203 relates to campaign finance.

It was given final Missouri Senate approval on April 20 and signed into law on May 6.

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City handled the measure…

**Kehoe 3 / Runs :29 / OC: made the donation.**

*“Extended that ability to a year-long CD, and then added the language which required a candidate committee to be dissolved before somebody can become a registered lobbyist. The individual can dissolve their campaign committee by giving the money back to the donors, to another candidate, to a political party committee or a 501(c)(3) charity. The floor substitute adds a provision that prohibits anyone from making a donation to a committee and then getting paid by the committee for who they made the donation.”*

During debate, Sen. Jason Holsman of Kansas City said he believes campaign finance reform should be a part of the mix…

**Holsman 4 / Runs :24 / OC: money is speech.**

*“One of the outstanding reasons for why Citizens United was ruled on was that money equals speech. That was one of the rulings that came out of that court. The problem with trying to limit, in the campaign contribution sense, is that the opponents of campaign finance contributions are saying that you can’t limit speech because it’s a First Amendment, and; therefore, it’s not constitutional to do — which I disagree with, by the way, because I do not believe that money is speech.”*

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.