***The Senate Minute* Script: Session Begins Today**

The First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly begins its work.

Even though the majority party in the Missouri Senate is waiting to hear what the incoming governor has in mind, there is one point that is on top of their “to-do” list.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin says Right to Work remains a priority…

**Richard 1 / Runs :12 / OC: interest of employees.**

*“It gives businesses a chance not to be forced to have unions dictate to them negotiations on working conditions. We want good working conditions, but to be forced to join a union is not necessarily in the best interest of employees.”*

But Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors calls the concept a bad idea…

**Walsh 2 / Runs :08 / OC: pay the fees.**

*“You should never get anything for free. I don’t think that the guy next to me should be able to come and join the club just because he wants to, and not pay the fees.”*

Missouri senators expect to receive their committee assignments very soon.

Already, 244 bills have been introduced in the upper chamber.

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.