March 13, 1915

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was March 13, 1915, the day the Missouri Commission for the Blind was created.

The commission was borne of the Missouri Association for the Blind in 1911. From there, the Missouri Legislature formally incorporated the commission in 1913. Those who helped found the association were instrumental in gaining legislative approval for the commission in 1915.

It was Gov. Elliot Major who asked lawmakers to create the commission, after hearing from people involved with the association. The governor asked for $25,000 in funding. The Legislature then appropriated half the amount, with the caveat the other half would be raised privately. The executive branch would then appoint commissioners the following November, four of whom were from St. Louis and one from Shelbina.

Unfortunately, World War I was underway, and the state’s budget picture was uncertain, at best. The newly formed commission would have to wait until May of 1916 to start its work, with full funding coming in July.

March 13, 1915, the date marking legislative creation of the Missouri Commission for the Blind, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired](http://www.slsbvi.org/about-us-2/history/) and *Outlook for the Blind, Vols. 10 and 11*)