**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Beginning of Second Half**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review how the first week back for Missouri senators went…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :04 / OC: and ordered printed.**

*“Thank you, Madame President. I now move that Senate Bill 623 be declared perfected and ordered printed….”*

Funding Missouri roads may be closer to a solution.

On Wednesday afternoon, Missouri senators gave preliminary approval to [Senate Bill 623](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246467), which would — upon approval of Missouri voters — raise the state’s gas tax from 17 cents to 22.9 cents per gallon.

Sponsor, Sen. Doug Libla of Poplar Bluff, says the original proposal would have raised the gas tax by 1.5 cents, the diesel tax by 3.5 cents, but without voter approval…

**Libla 1 / Runs :10 / OC: worth of history.**

*“Since 1924, motor fuel user tax IS the way we have invested in our highways, period. That is 92 years’ worth of history.”*

Another “yes” vote would send Senate Bill 623 to the Missouri House of Representatives for its consideration…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :04 / OC: this, was our.**

*“What this bill was, the Conference Committee Report on this, was our….”*

Missouri senators send a priority measure to the executive branch.

Ethics reform is considered among the top issues for lawmakers this year.

[House Bill 1983](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB1983&year=2016&code=R) would create new provisions of law relating to elected officials acting as paid political consultants. The proposal was Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed on Tuesday afternoon.

Senator Brian Munzlinger of Williamstown, who handled the bill in the upper chamber, and Sen. Scott Sifton of Affton discussed conference committee work on the measure…

**Munzlinger and Sifton 3 / Runs :14 / OC: it is better.**

Sifton: *“And, there was a great exchange, and we talked about some of the nitty gritty on the bill. And, the change we wound up coming up with, I think was — in my view — an improvement on both what the House and the Senate.”*

Munzlinger: *“I think it reads better. If you followed me when I read the old version, I think it is better.”*

House Bill 1983 now awaits the governor’s signature…

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :04 / OC: for Senate Bill.**

*“We are back on Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill….”*

First-round approval was also given to [Senate Bill 786](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22400059), a measure that would modify the law relating to the prosecution of election offenses.

A good deal of discussion was held on the proposal, including Sen. Sifton, who tells the sponsor he can see the need for this legislation…

**Sifton 4 / Runs :09 / OC: a stand-alone bill.**

*“I’ve also carried legislation to increase the penalties for certain kinds of election misconduct. I understand and respect you want to carry this as a stand-alone bill.”*

On Thursday, Senate Bill 786 was passed by the Missouri and is now in the Missouri House for its consideration…

**Nat Snd 4 / :05 / OC: day of mark-ups.**

*“(SFX in) All right, let’s call this meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee to order. This is our first day of mark-ups….”*

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) also began marks ups on the Fiscal Year 2017 Missouri operating budget, which will next go to the full Missouri Senate.

The budget is due on May 6.

The 2016 legislative session will end on Friday, May 13.

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.