***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Priority Legislation**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review more priority legislation receiving floor time…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :01 / OC: that Senate Bill.**

*“…I move that Senate Bill….”*

The week began with lengthy discussion of [Senate Bill 43](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095378), a measure that would make changes to the law relating to unlawful discrimination.

Sponsor, Sen. Gary Romine of Farmington, tells his colleagues part of his proposal would take into account “contributing factor” in certain legal cases…

**Romine 1 / Runs :08 / OC: the adverse action.**

*“A contributing factor standard of causation is a minimal burden of proof that imposes liability for something that simply did not cause the adverse action.”*

Senator Shalonn “Kiki” Curls of Kansas City says she disagrees with the sponsor’s premise the legislation seeks to mirror existing federal law…

**Curls 2 / Runs :08 / OC: troubling and hurtful.**

*“But, for me, as an African-American and as a woman, this is particularly egregious and troubling and hurtful.”*

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :01 / OC: that Senate Bill.**

*“Thank you, Mr. President. I ask that Senate Bill….”*

Debate continued into a second day for Senate Bill 43.

Part of the dialogue over the measure centered around taking out certain language in Missouri’s current human rights law.

But, Sen. Romine says there’s no move to undo existing law; rather, reword those statutes…

**Romine 3 / Runs :08 / OC: new language added.**

*“Senator, it’s common practice, when you enact a new piece of legislation that you fully repeal that section and put it back in with the new language added.”*

As Tuesday night progressed, Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors was uncertain how a true compromise could be reached…

**Walsh 4 / Runs :09 / OC: go to court.**

*“I understand that it’s philosophical differences. Everybody has the right to go to court with it. You know what? Everybody doesn’t have the ability to hire a lawyer to go to court.”*

Just before 3 Wednesday morning, an accord *was* found, and preliminary approval was given to the proposal.

Following final Missouri Senate passage on Thursday morning, Senate Bill 43 now moves to the Missouri House of Representatives for similar consideration…

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :01 / OC: Bill No. 128.**

*“…That Senate Bill No. 128….”*

There are occasions when the Missouri Senate will go to the [Consent Calendar](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/pdf-cal/cal.htm). Consent bills are those considered non-controversial and without a fiscal note.

Senator Bob Dixon of Springfield sponsors [Senate Bill 128](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095391), a measure that would repeal provisions designating the number and location of the divisions of the [16th Judicial Circuit](https://www.16thcircuit.org/)…

**Dixon 5 / Runs :05 / OC: within the county.**

*“Or move within their circuit and not be limited to specific courthouse within the county.”*

During discussion, Sen. Jason Holsman of Kansas City — who represents part of Jackson County — told the sponsor he’s not heard from anyone about a need for this to be done…

**Holsman 6 / Runs :10 / OC: concern with that.**

*“If I have to ask you about this that happens in my county, and none of the other senators kind of have an idea of what the potential consequences could be, I have a little bit of a concern with that.”*

Pending further study, Senate Bill 128 will remain on the Missouri Senate Consent Calendar.

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 from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.