***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Mid-Session**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first half of the First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly, and preview what’s to come…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :06 / OC: a pretty picture.**

Senator Cunningham: *“Therefore, I think we’ve done a lot of good.”*

Senator Schupp: *“So far, in session, I’ve got to say — for the average Missourian — it has not been a pretty picture.”*

Senator Mike Cunningham of Rogersville says, so far, tort reform has dominated this session…

**Cunningham 1 / Runs :05 / OC: for discrimination charges.**

*“They did a discrimination bill. Raises the standards for determining whether or not employee’s liable for discrimination charges.”*

But, Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur says [House Bill 153](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB153&year=2017&code=R) would benefit big business…

**Schupp 2 / Runs :10 / OC: in those cases.**

*“Whoever has the most money and can produce the most expert witnesses and prove to the judge that they’re worthy tends to have the big advantage in those cases.”*

Senator Ed Emery of Lamar says he supports [House Bill 251](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB251&year=2017&code=R), which would create new provisions relating to public labor organizations…

**Emery 3 / Runs :09 / OC: personal world views.**

*“For individuals that either don’t want their dues to go to unions, or they don’t want those dues to be used in certain ways that are opposed to their personal world views.”*

Senator Schupp believes this to be another measure deigned to help a certain few…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :07 / OC: our schools stronger.**

*“Continued attacks on labor unions are not going to create a single job. Going after our teachers won’t make our schools stronger.”*

As lawmakers look ahead to the second half of session, many issues remain unresolved.

Senator Schupp says things need to change in the remaining seven weeks…

**Schupp 5 / Runs :07 / OC: to be seen.**

*“I am hopeful that the second half of this legislative session is better for working families than the first half. That certainly remains to be seen.”*

Senator Dan Hegeman of Cosby adds a wide range of issues are still undecided…

**Hegeman 6 / Runs :11 / OC: with local government.**

*“Got a bill that deals with counties and their use of cemetery funds. Some of our representatives have been trying to pass for the past couple of years. Hopefully, that will make its way all the way through. I’ve got some issues just dealing with local government.”*

In the first 11 weeks of session, lawmakers [Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/TrulyAgreed.aspx?SessionType=R) one Senate measure and two House bills. The governor signed [Senate Bill 19](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095277), which will create new provisions of law relating to labor organizations, on Feb. 6. No executive branch action has yet been taken on House Bill 153 — expert witness — or [House Bill 662](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB662&year=2017&code=R), which seeks to allow the [Missouri Department of Agriculture](http://agriculture.mo.gov/) to assess civil penalties for the use of a herbicide for a crop for which the herbicide was not labeled for use.

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :04 / OC: 27th at 4 p.m.**

*“Senate will stand adjourned until Monday, March 27, at 4 p.m.”*

When lawmakers return to Jefferson City on March 27, there will be seven weeks left in session.

The Missouri General Assembly still has to pass the Fiscal Year 2018 state operating budget before 6 p.m. on May 5.

The last day of the First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will be Friday, May 12.

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.