***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Budget**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review Missouri Senate work on the state’s Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :02 / OC: is public education.**

*“House Bill 2 is public education….”*

There are 13 bills that comprise the fiscal plan for the state.

Among these is [House Bill 2](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB2&year=2017&code=R), which funds elementary and secondary education.

During discussion, Sen. Gary Romine of Farmington mentioned lawmakers have a chance to add money to education…

**Romine 1 / Runs :05 / OC: fund the formula.**

*“We have an opportunity to let the body make that decision on whether or not we’re going to fully fund the formula.”*

Before the vote on the amendment, Sen. Jason Holsman of Kansas City — who serves on the [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) — told his colleagues he believes this to be a historic vote…

**Holsman 2 / Runs :06 / OC: state of Missouri.**

*“Fully fund it, and that is good for our kids. That is good for our communities and that’s good for the future of the state of Missouri.”*

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :02 / OC: do have it.**

*“The ‘ayes’ appear to have it. The ‘ayes’ do have it….”*

The biggest part of Missouri’s budget continues to be social spending.

Just over one-third of spending falls into this category.

Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee Chair, Sen. Dan Brown of Rolla, says a $300 million increase is included in [House Bill 11](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB11&year=2017&code=R), which funds the [Missouri Department of Social Services](http://www.dss.mo.gov/)…

**Brown 3 / Runs :07 / OC: Services and Medicaid.**

*“Sizable increase, and usually a pretty good supplemental budget, related to social services and* [*Medicaid*](https://www.medicaid.gov/)*.”*

During discussion, Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur mentioned the foundation funding formula was reset last year…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :08 / OC: put into place.**

*“This certainly doesn’t meet the level that we thought was adequate to fund the schools back in 2005, when this revised formula was put into place.”*

The next step for the $27.8 billion budget will be a Missouri Senate-House conference committee.

Missouri’s Fiscal Year 2018 financial plan has to be delivered to the executive branch no later than 6 p.m. on Friday, May 5.

Fiscal Year 2018 will start on Saturday, July 1…

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :02 / OC: House Bill 302.**

*“House Committee Substitute for House Bill 302….”*

Before budget work started, Missouri senators spent Monday afternoon talking about another of the governor’s priorities.

[House Bill 302](http://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB302&year=2017&code=R) would create the "Blue Alert System" for notifying the public when law enforcement officers are seriously injured or killed.

During discussion, Sen. Bob Dixon of Springfield talked about changes made to the measure, which would include new penalties for assaulting law enforcement officers…

**Dixon 5 / Runs :10 / OC: law enforcement officer.**

*“Keeps it consistent with the criminal code. But, it puts in some mandatory minimums, which will actually affect more effective sentencing when it comes to those who would assault a law enforcement officer.”*

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors adds she would like to see first-responders added to the proposal…

**Walsh 6 / Runs :08 / OC: over a week.**

*“Eleven years ago, this June, we had tornadoes go through St. Louis County. We were without power, in some cases, for over a week.”*

House Bill 302 has been set aside for further dialogue.

Only two weeks remain in the 2017 legislative session.

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.