***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Session Review**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the highlights of the First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :04 / OC: free and fair debate.**

Senator Richard: *“We have done things that I never dreamed possible.”*

Senator Walsh: *“You know, we wanted free and fair debate.”*

The 2017 legislative session ended on May 12.

For Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin, this year meant new beginnings for certain priorities…

**Richard 1 / Runs :10 / OC: a vote early.**

*“I mean, when you go on issues that is Right to Work, the calendar was a heavy lift. I mean, we put things out there on purpose to get these items debated and try to brought to a vote early.”*

But, Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors adds things changed on the last day of session…

**Walsh 2 / Runs :10 / OC: just got railroaded.**

*“If you look at me, you can say, ‘Boy, you must really feel a sigh of relief.’ But, if you look at Sen. [Shalonn “Kiki”] Curls [D-Kansas City], she’s very disappointed — because what’s near and dear to her, she just got railroaded.”*

Senator Richard says 81 measures were sent to the governor this session, a relatively low number, compared to most sessions…

**Richard 3 / Runs :07 / OC: debate, great issues.**

*“I don’t gauge my success on the quantity. I think that’s a pretty good description. We have great quality, great intensity on the debate, great issues.”*

Senator Walsh adds she was able to see some successes contained in those 81 bills…

**Walsh 4 / Runs :07 / OC: excited about that.**

*“Passed my health care directives bill that I’ve been trying to do for four years. The zoo bill passed, and I’m very excited about that.”*

Senator Richard says he believes several of these measures point to “quality versus quantity”…

**Richard 5 / Runs :05 / OC: in one year.**

*“I mean, we had 11 tort bills. We haven’t done 11 tort bills in my 15 years here. We did them all in one year.”*

But Sen. Walsh counters state control over the minimum wage for individual cities and counties in Missouri will have a negative effect…

**Walsh 6 / Runs :05 / OC: entry-level jobs anymore.**

*“Making minimum wage, and she’s 72 years old. These are not entry-level jobs anymore.”*

Senator Richard also says calling a special session is up to the executive branch. The governor did so on Thursday, asking lawmakers to return to the Capitol to decide the fate of a steel mill and smelter slated for southeast Missouri…

**Richard 7 / Runs :08 / OC: what to do.**

*“Well, I was here when Bob Holden did it. Remember we was here all the way until July the 4th? I mean, he does what he does. We do what we do. Nobody tells the Senate what to do.”*

Senator Walsh points out a special session can only be for something specific and has a time limit…

**Walsh 8 / Runs :08 / OC: to work on.**

*“The governor’s going to make the call, and you can bet that the governor’s going to make that call very narrow, so we can only work on what he tells us to work on.”*

Special session will start Monday afternoon. By law, it can last up to 60 days.

At the same time, the governor has until July 14 to sign, veto or let legislation from the regular session become law without his signature.

These include the 13 measures that comprise Missouri’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a complete list of [Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/TrulyAgreed.aspx?SessionType=R) legislation — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.