**This Week in the Missouri Senate:  
Digital Audio File Script on New Laws**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the new laws that will soon take effect…

**Nat Snd / Runs :06 / OC: to the public.**

*“It allows for the recording of more infection data to the public.”*

Typically, most of the measures passed during the regular legislative session and either signed into law or allowed to become law without the governor’s signature take effect on Aug. 28. There are some exceptions. For instance, those bills that have an emergency clause and take effect as soon as they’re signed. There are also other times when a new law may have varying start dates for different pieces of the total bill or may start in years following the year in which they were passed and signed.

Among the measures set to take effect on the 28th is [Senate Bill 579](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246494), which modifies provisions relating to infection reporting of health care facilities and telehealth services. The new law was first debated on the Missouri Senate floor on Feb. 2, given final passage on April 26 and signed into law on June 8.

During debate, sponsor — Sen. Rob Schaaf of St. Joseph — told colleagues part of his proposal builds on a state law that dates back a decade…

**Schaaf 1 / Runs :14 / OC: one step further.**

*“And so, we in Missouri have been on the leading edge of trying to get a handle on this problem. And, in 2004, we passed a bill requiring the reporting of infection rates. This just takes it one step further.”*

Senator Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis took advantage of the bill to try and add [Medicaid](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Actions.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246494) reform, something some Missouri senators have wanted for the past two years…

**Nasheed 2 / Runs :21 / OC: hospitals closing down.**

*“This is an extension of the ACA [*[*Affordable Care Act*](http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/about-the-law/read-the-law/)*]. We are still dealing with a crisis here in the state of Missouri that we haven’t dealt with, and I think this year is the time to deal with it, with approximately 200,000 people who are without health care services. We are seeing, at a drastic rate, hospitals closing down.”*

Senate Bill 579 also addresses telehealth services, especially for those who use [MO HealthNet](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246494). It establishes a statewide home telemonitoring program for MO HealthNet. Home telemonitoring services are health care services that require scheduled remote monitoring of data related to a patient's health.

Other measures set to become law include:

* [Senate Bill 578](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246479), which allows certain circuits to appoint an additional court marshal, authorizes an additional judge in certain circuits, excludes firearms from bankruptcy and establishes the Missouri Commercial Receivership Act;
* [Senate Bill 905](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=24429792), which changes the effective date of the repeal and enactment of certain provisions of the [Uniform Interstate Family Support Act](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=24429792); and
* [Senate Concurrent Resolution 50](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=23926103), which designates the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see all of the [measures](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/GovActionTAT.aspx?SessionType=R) set to become law — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.