**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on SB 608**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review another measure that will now become law, after lawmakers override the governor’s veto…

**Nat Snd / Runs :03 / OC: you, Mr. President.**

*“…Substitute for Senate Bill 608. Senator from Barry…. Thank you, Mr. President….”*

[Senate Bill 608](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246590) modifies provisions relating to health care. The measure received final legislative approval on May 13, was vetoed on July 5 and then resurrected on Sept. 14.

During last week’s annual veto session, bill sponsor — Sen. David Sater of Cassville — told his colleagues why his proposal was given the “thumbs down” by the executive branch…

**Sater 1 / Runs :26 / OC: that I had.**

*“And, I contend, as though it will increase the health of the recipients by getting them to their appointment to the doctor and increasing their health. And that’s one of my objectives, always has been that way. And, also, here’s another reason for rejecting this — which I don’t quite understand — is just because we didn’t expand* [*Medicaid*](http://www.senate.mo.gov/) *to the 138 percent, from what it is right now, which has nothing to do with the bill that I had.”*

Senator Jason Holsman of Kansas City mentioned this bill includes language from one of his proposals introduced during the regular legislative session…

**Holsman 2 / Runs :26 / OC: consume that cost.**

*“Well, it has my bill as a big portion of it. The Health Care Transparency Act is probably the meat and potatoes of what this bill does. No bill is perfect. I wouldn’t support the underlying bill in absence of legislation to bring cost transparency to the health care market, but because it does have that in there, I think that that benefit to the middle class — really, all classes — of knowing how much cost of service is going to be before you consume that cost.”*

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur told Sen. Sater some of their colleagues are unable to agree with the underlying premise of the bill…

**Schupp-Sater 3 / Runs :27 / OC: a definite problem**

Senator Schupp: *“You know, there are differences of opinion on this bill. I know we talk about intentions a lot of times, and I think when you introduced the bill, you said that your intent — well, let’s hear what your intent is, again, when — in introducing the underlying bill here.”*

Senator Sater: *“First of all, you talked about the no-shows on the appointments to the doctor’s office. And then, the second part of it was the emergency room over usage, which — I’ve talked to many nurses and doctors in emergency rooms, and that is a definite problem.”*

Several elements have been added to the original measure, including:

* Vaccinations;
* The "Health Care Cost Reduction and Transparency Act";
* Palliative care;
* Administrative rules regulating the construction of hospitals;
* Certificates of need;
* The physical therapy compact;
* The nurse licensure compact;
* Emergency supplies of medication;
* Medication synchronization;
* Pharmacy benefit managers;
* Insurance coverage for occupational therapy services;
* Prescription eye drops; and
* Health care price transparency.

The new law will take effect on Oct. 14.

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 for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.