***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Protecting Children**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review a new law designed to protect Missouri’s children…

**Nat Snd  
:02  
Q: Chairman, committee members….**

[Senate Bill 819](https://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=70053581) was prefiled back in December; heard by the [Missouri Senate Seniors, Families and Children Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/SFCH/) on Feb. 14; given first-round Missouri Senate approval on March 8; given Missouri House of Representatives’ approval on May 15; truly agreed to and finally passed on May 18; and signed into law on June 1.

Senator Mike Cunningham of Rogersville is the bill’s sponsor…

**Cunningham 1  
:15  
Q: DSS case managers.**

During testimony, he added it has become necessary to extend the number of days involved…

**Cunningham 2  
:19  
Q: of the situation.**

Senator Cunningham also says the new law will add to security while cutting costs…

**Cunningham 3  
:18  
Q: less administrative burden.**

Senate Bill 819 is among several pieces of legislation, considered this year, that relate to family and children’s issues.

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur was able to add to [Senate Bill 982](https://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=73432653), which enacts provisions relating to insurance…

**Schupp  
:24  
Q: Senate Bill 982.**

Senate Bill 819 also:

* Establishes the "Social Innovation Grant Program";
* Changes some rules regarding physician referrals of children exposed to drugs or alcohol;
* Makes changes to vital records laws, immunizations, the “Missouri Children’s Service Commission” and assessment and treatment services and case management;
* Creates the "Supporting and Strengthening Families Act"; and
* Changes the statute of limitations for certain offenses.

Senate Bill 819 became law on Aug. 28.

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.