***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: SB 43**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the latest on a new state law…

**Nat Snd / Runs :10 / OC: a two-day period.**

Senator Emery: *“In 2010, a court decided that ‘contributing’ and ‘motivating’ meant exactly the same thing.”*

Senator Schupp: *“Which is why, with my colleagues, we stood up against this bill over a two-day period.”*

[Senate Bill 43](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095378) modifies the law relating to unlawful discrimination.

Before the measure took effect, the [NAACP in Missouri](http://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/MO-1.pdf) issued its first-ever “travel advisory,” cautioning people to avoid the state — because of the new law. Also, earlier this month, it was learned the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](https://www.hud.gov/) would be forced to pull funding from the state. Officials there say the new law drops state compliance from the federal [Fair Housing Assistance Program](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/partners/FHAP).

Senator Ed Emery of Lamar supports Senate Bill 43. He says the catalyst behind the new law is a 2010 court decision…

**Emery 1 / Runs :19 / OC: had been overturned.**

*“’Motivating’ really just meant ‘contributing.’ And, all the sudden, we were right back where we started. And, so, this was legislation to try to correct that. It was interesting. Most of the several hours trying to work through and finally resolve that bill, which we were able to do and did pass some restoration of the intentions that had been overturned.”*

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur opposes the measure. She says the law does not do what it’s purported to do…

**Schupp 2 / Runs :23 / OC: to the courts.**

*“I’m concerned that it limits a whistleblower’s ability to get recourse — should he or she report on something illegal, or unethical that the company is doing, or is about to do. So, again, the state of things in Missouri: If we want to attract and retain good employees, we need to treat them with respect, and we need to provide for them fairness in the workplace and access to the courts.”*

Senator Dan Hegeman of Cosby is also in favor of the new law. He says Senate Bill 43 is meant to fix changes first made in 2005…

**Hegeman 3 / Runs :20 / OC: all our citizens.**

*“We try to make some of these reforms, and yet, they get undone by the judicial branch — which prompts us to come back and try to clarify even more what we — our intent was — to make some of these reforms, to make the business climate in the state of Missouri better, so we are not the No. 1 most difficult place in the U.S. of running a business and providing good jobs for all our citizens.”*

Senator Schupp says the new law means the end of certain discrimination protections…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :21 / OC: get discriminated against.**

*“You can be easily discriminated against, even if you belong to a protected class, under Missouri’s* [*Human Rights Act*](https://labor.mo.gov/discrimination)*. But, if you’re a person of color, if you’re a woman, if you’re someone over 50, if you are disabled in some way, based on your religion. All of those ways are, without these protections, people get discriminated against.”*

Senate Bill 43 took effect 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.