***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Prefiled Legislation**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the measures Missouri senators will be deciding next year…

**Nat Snd / Runs :09 / OC: passed last year.**

Senator Eigel: *“That’s the Missouri Economic Relief Act. That’s going to be the largest tax cut that we’ve seen in Missouri history.”*

Senator Schupp: *“One of the first ones that is a result of a bill that we passed last year.”*

By law, Missouri lawmakers may prefile legislation for the following year’s regular session as early as July 1. These bills are then held until they are given their numbers for the next session, which happens on Dec. 1. Assigning bill numbers is done based on a senator’s seniority in the Legislature, starting with their first day in the Missouri House of Representatives, for those who were. Missouri senators are allowed three bills to be given the first numbers for the upcoming legislative session. Next year’s measures will start with Senate Bill 545, as it will be the second regular session for the current Missouri General Assembly.

Among those bills first in line is one from Sen. Bill Eigel of Weldon Spring, who will sponsor [Senate Bill 617](http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=69472991) next year. He says he believes it’s time to completely re-examine how taxes are collected and redistributed in our state…

**Eigel 1 / Runs :11 / OC: by 20 percent.**

*“So, if you’re a working-class or a middle-class household, it’s going to eliminate the bottom four brackets in the tax code completely. If you’re a small business owner, and you’re in one of the higher brackets, it’s going to bring down the top rate by 20 percent.”*

Senator Eigel adds he hears about the need to improve Missouri infrastructure all the time…

**Eigel 2 / Runs : 12 / OC: on Missouri citizens.**

*“We’re growing in St. Charles County, so our need for more and additional roads is ever-increasing. So, I’ve tried to find ways where we can provide more transportation funding without increasing the overall tax burden on Missouri citizens.”*

In addition to fiscal matters, there are other pressing issues for Missouri’s 34 state senators. For Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur, [Senate Bill 620](http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=69471960) will be a priority for her in the coming year…

**Schupp 3 / Runs :09 / OC: of the bill.**

*“*[*Housing and Urban Development*](https://www.hud.gov/) *funding from the federal government, because of the passage of this bill, because of discrimination in housing. So, we need to undo that portion of the bill.”*

She also says, because of [Senate Bill 43](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095378) — which became law this past summer — state employees’ whistleblower protections no longer exist…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :19 / OC: of being fired.**

*“We need to make sure that our taxpayers in this state know that their monies are being spent well by the government, that there’s no funny or monkey business going on, and that people who want to blow the whistle on something inappropriate going on in their office are able to do that without suffering the consequences of being fired.”*

Once the first prefiled measures receive their numbers, Missouri senators can continue to file legislation throughout the month. The Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will commence at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a complete list of prefiled legislation — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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