July 1, 1917

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was July 1, 1917, the day Missouri’s first income tax took effect.

The tax rate was the same for individuals as it was for corporations, one-half of a percent. Missouri was one of four states to add taxation as a way of boosting revenue that year.

Among the dozens of bills relating to taxation in 1915 was Senate Bill 242, which enacted 12 new sections of state law for taxing people. Another was Senate Bill 338, which made changes to 16 sections of state statute.

It should also be noted this was not the state’s first foray into taxing its citizens. The first taxes were collected locally, starting before Missouri became a state.

During his address to the Legislature the previous January, then-Gov. Elliot Major mentioned other possible revenue-growing taxes, including the mortgage and inheritance taxes. These would be quickly added to the mix.

These rates would be short-lived, as increases would come within two years.

July 1, 1917, the date marking the beginning of Missouri’s income tax, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [University of Missouri](http://eparc.missouri.edu/pubs/tax_ref/apx/A/A-01TaxRateCharts.pdf); [Missouri Senate Journal Appendix of 1917](https://books.google.com/books?id=HPRFAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA3-PA64&lpg=RA3-PA64&dq=Missouri+Senate+Journal+1916&source=bl&ots=0vxNHf5gqs&sig=wKr9WqyovQpV9OVXnToL-vdCR2Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjihaT7nMzbAhWs64MKHbvIBxkQ6AEIYDAO#v=onepage&q=Missouri%20Senate%20Journal%201916&f=false); [*Journal of the Missouri Senate*](https://books.google.com/books?id=ot0aAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA12&lpg=PA12&dq=Missouri+Senate+Journal+1916&source=bl&ots=WaupW0Q-Ia&sig=L1ChXKK6Ken-V56ZTfBEq6S8mDk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt9oSkoczbAhVBw4MKHZEXAlUQ6AEIYzAP#v=onepage&q=Missouri%20Senate%20Journal%201916&f=false))