***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script  
Nuisance Properties**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review a new law that relates to nuisance properties in certain parts of our state…

**Nat Snd :02 Q: Bill 203. This….**

[Senate Bill 203](https://www.senate.mo.gov/19info/BTS_Web/Actions.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=891280) was prefiled on Jan. 3, heard by the [Missouri Senate Progress and Development Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/PROG/) on March 12, sent to the Missouri House of Representatives on April 16, sent to the executive branch on May 17, signed into law on July 9 and took effect on Aug. 28.

During the committee hearing, sponsor — Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis — told the panel her proposal adds to existing state law…

**Nasheed 1 :18 Q: definition of nuisance.**

She also says Senate Bill 203 changes the number of days between the time written notice is given and legal action can be taken…

**Nasheed 2 :18 Q: including neighborhood organizations.**

The definitions of the terms "nuisance" and "neighborhood organizations,” as they are used in this new law, are modified. Property owners and neighborhood organizations seeking injunctive relief will no longer have to show they are suffering real damages as a result of the nuisance in order to bring such an action. Additionally, this new law allows attorney's fees to be awarded in certain circumstances to the party who brought the action.

In addition, Senate Bill 203 only applies to St. Louis City and County, Kansas City and Independence, something that caught the attention of Sen. Eric Burlison of Battlefield, who serves on the Missouri Senate Progress and Development Committee…

**Burlison :09 Q: property in Springfield.**

Additionally, the new law modifies a defense available to property owners who are acting in good faith to comply with all orders, rather than an order issued by the [Missouri Department of Natural Resources](https://dnr.mo.gov/), the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/) or the [Missouri attorney general](https://www.ago.mo.gov/).

This new law ends work some Missouri senators have continued to put in since the first legislation on this became law five years ago.

In the end, 30 Missouri senators would say “yes” to Senate Bill 203, with two senators voting “no.”

Again, this law 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.