***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script  
Punitive Damages**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review another tort reform measure that finds success in the Missouri Legislature…

**Nat Snd :02 Q: Senate Bill 591….**

[Senate Bill 591](https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=26837954) was prefiled back in December; heard by the [Missouri Senate Government Reform Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/GREF/) on Jan. 14; discussed by Missouri senators on Feb. 11 and 25; sent to the Missouri House of Representatives on March 2; given final passage on May 12; and sent to the executive branch on May 27.

When sponsor — Sen. Bill White of Joplin — first presented Senate Bill 591 to the Missouri Senate Government Reform Committee on Jan. 14, his measure largely related only to punitive damages…

**White 1 :20 Q: to punitive damages.**

The goal, he said, was to keep punitive damages in check…

**White 2 :18 Q: grant punitive damages.**

Additionally, punitive damages — in relation to medical malpractice — and rules governing unlawful merchandising practices are now also a part of the proposal.

When Senate Bill 591 was first talked about on the floor of the Missouri Senate, on Feb. 11, Sen. Scott Sifton of Affton mentioned additional changes made to the legislation…

**Sifton 1 :20 Q: to talk about.**

He adds Senate Bill 591 would provide the first changes in law in a long time…

**Sifton 2 :19 Q: a century, senator.**

Senate Bill 591 represents another, in a long line of measures, of changes to Missouri’s tort reform laws. If signed into law, it would take effect on Aug. 28.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus, see a complete list of [truly agreed to and finally passed legislation](https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/BTS_Web/TrulyAgreed.aspx?SessionType=R) — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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