Jan. 24, 1877

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Jan. 24, 1877, beginning of the third week of the Regular Session of the 29th General Assembly.

The 1875 state constitution changes the start of session from the first Wednesday in January to the first Wednesday following New Year’s Day. However, there is a catch. On alternating intervals of six and 22 years, the first Wednesday *is* New Year’s Day. So, beginning in 1879 and repeating in 1901, ’07 and ’29, session would start on the first day of the year — until the state constitution is changed again.

Lawmakers would make new laws governing cities and their government; create a uniform county court system; organize probate courts; change criminal statutes; change rules for hotel and boarding house keepers; revise militia law; require contracts when selling personal property; require fire escapes and fire exits for certain buildings; amend the 1872 revenue law; change the stray law and municipal township law.

Historians say this session produced one of the largest number of, range of and importance of laws in state history.

Session would conclude on April 30, one month later than previous sessions that had started in January.

January 24, 1877, the date marking start of week three of the Regular Session of the 29th General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Missouri Sessions, Missouri Statute Annotations Embracing Construction and Derivation, Starting in 1820* and Missouri Senate Journal)