***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
Session Underway**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first *full* week of the 2021 session…

 **Nat Snd 1 :01 Q: be in order….**

This is the *second* week of the First Regular Session of the 101st General Assembly…

**Nat Snd 2 :07 Q: down the road.**

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Caleb Rowden of Columbia says, after adopting rules for the duration of the 101st General Assembly, Missouri senators will now move through the next steps of this legislative session…

 **Rowden 1 :03 Q: start to meet.**

But, Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Kansas City says, the priorities remain the same…

 **Rizzo 1 :04 Q: from this pandemic.**

 **Nat Snd 3 :05 Q: need to fix.**

Senator Rowden adds this year’s legislative agenda is still COVID-dependent…

 **Rowden 2 :08 Q: little bit far-fetched.**

Senator Rizzo says the pandemic points to the need to increase Medicaid funding…

 **Rizzo 2 :10 Q: health care system before.**

 **Nat Snd 4 :05 Q: the one before.**

Senator Rowden says another consideration for this session will be how things progress after COVID vaccinations are distributed…

 **Rowden 3 :04 Q: was pretty good.**

Senator Rizzo says, no matter what, he believes lawmakers have to keep their goals for this session in mind…

 **Rizzo 3 :04 Q: to do that.**

 **Nat Snd 5 :05 Q: the 2021 session.**

Senator Rowden also says committee assignments are now known for this and next years…

 **Rowden 4 :05 Q: major floor discussion.**

Which means, according to Sen. Rizzo, the heavy lifting begins after this…

 **Rizzo 4 :04 Q: on the floor.**

The first committees are set to meet on Tuesday, with additional hearings scheduled for both Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Altogether, there are 20 standing committees in the Missouri Senate for the 101st General Assembly. You can find a list of these panels, and the legislation they will hear this session, on our website.

Lawmakers will be off on Monday — for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday — and then resume on Tuesday to begin the third week of the First Regular Session of the 101st General Assembly.

To date, 394 bills, four concurrent resolutions, 23 joint resolutions and two resolutions have been introduced — so far — in the Missouri Senate.

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.