May 15, 1861

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 15, 1861, final day of the Called Session of the 21st General Assembly.

The main task at-hand for lawmakers was war legislation, at the Civil War’s beginning. At first, the goal was to have the state ready for war, but maintain neutrality. Lawmakers also revised Missouri’s militia laws and money was budgeted to repel any invasion. Part of this included authorizing counties to lend the state money.

Originally, the last day was supposed to be the third Monday in September, but then-Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson and numerous lawmaker retirements led to some confusion. Expected incoming troops from St. Louis hastened the adjournment.

May 15, 1861, the date marking the last day of the Called Session of the 21st General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Missouri Statute Annotations Embracing Construction and Derivation* and *Missouri Senate Journal*)