***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
COVID Liability**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review a new law that addresses what has become known as COVID liability…

**Nat Snd :14 Q: to COVID lawsuits.**

Originally, lawmakers set out to find a solution to this during one of last year’s extra sessions.

[Senate Bill 51 & 42](https://www.senate.mo.gov/21info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=54105525) became a priority early on during this year’s regular legislative session.

Senator Tony Luetkemeyer of Parkville is the sponsor. He says this new law will address certain civil actions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic…

 **Luetkemeyer 1 :06 Q: they’re not sued.**

But Sen. Karla May of St. Louis says some Missouri senators have concerns with this new law…

 **May 1 :18 Q: impacted by COVID-19.**

Senator Luetkemeyer adds the bill language comes from the federal level…

 **Luetkemeyer 2 :14 Q: the CARES Act.**

Senator May says it took a good deal of time to find common ground on this legislation…

 **May 2 :08 Q: to some consensus.**

Senator Luetkemeyer also says there are still some questions over reopening some businesses that have been affected by the pandemic, as well as how to handle schools reopening for the next semester…

 **Luetkemeyer 3 :13 Q: the economy reopens.**

Senator May says she believes all of these items to be important, as the pandemic is still underway…

 **May 3 :12 Q: reference to COVID-19.**

Another aspect of this new law protects religious organizations and medical professionals from liability, unless a plaintiff can prove clear and convincing evidence. The new law also caps punitive damages.

Senate Bill 51 & 42 will 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/21info/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.