May 24, 1889

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 24, 1889, the final day of the Regular Session of the 35th General Assembly.

Session ended on a Friday, at a time when the Legislature still regularly met *only* every other year, started session on the first Wednesday in January — which, by the way, meant starting on New Year’s Day some years — and ended session anywhere from the end of March through the end of June.

Session started as most world on the final day, with a flurry of activity, most of which was aimed at tying up loose ends and taking care of final details to end the session.

The Railroads and Internal Improvements Committee reported out Senate Bill 313, which declared railways to be public highways and railroad companies common carriers, and asked railroads in Missouri to allow any person, company or corporation to ride or transport goods without question. Another measure outlawed giving free railroad tickets to elected officials or members of the state equalization board.

A number of resolutions would be introduced and approved. It was also standard in those years to appoint a short-lived committee of senators and representatives to await any final word from the executive branch before the end of session. When the committee reported there were no new communications from the governor, the Missouri Senate then voted to change the sine die adjournment from that day to the following Tuesday.

Senators then moved to adjourn at the regular time of noon, something else that has changed over the years.

May 24, 1889, the date marking the 113th — and last — day of the Regular Session of the 35th General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: Missouri Senate Journal)