Mo Senate Leaders Discuss Ethics Reform

Intro: Legislative leaders from both sides of the aisle are seeing calls from their fellow lawmakers for changes to the state’s ethics laws. Jonathan Lorenz reports from the State Capitol on what legislative leaders are saying the chances are for ethics reform.

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 Jefferson City

((NATS))

 One of the issues grabbing headlines as lawmakers return to the State Capitol is ethics reform.

 Lawmakers from both chambers in the Missouri General Assembly have filed more than fifteen pieces of legislation addressing the issue.

 Super: Sen. Joseph Keaveny

 (D) St. Louis

 *“I think the public more and more is expecting something to happen along those lines and that’s what needs to happen, the public needs to get involved.”*

The proposed legislation covers topics including campaign finance reform, banning lobbyist gifts and implementing a two-year cooling off period before a lawmaker can become a lobbyist.

 The call for ethics reform comes after the resignation of two lawmakers in two thousand fifteen.

 The leader of the Missouri Senate believes elected officials haven’t lost the trust of the people who sent them to Jefferson City, but understands the calls for ethics reform.

 Super: Sen. Ron Richard

 (R) Joplin

 *“A reasonable amount of reform would probably be in the best interest of the taxpayers and let them know that elected officials are doing the right thing.”*

Lawmakers gaveled in for the two thousand sixteen legislative session on January sixth… reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Jonathan Lorenz.