***The Missouri Senate Minute* Script
DEI and the Budget**

Diversity, equity and inclusion — or D.E.I. — became a focal point of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget during its creation this year in the Missouri General Assembly.

Senator Lincoln Hough of Springfield chairs the [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/3).

He says there are usually three approaches to each year’s budget: the governor, the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate…

 **Hough :09 Q: for vulnerable populations.**

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo is from Independence. He says, when the appropriations measures made it to the upper chamber in April, a majority of Missouri senators opted to fund state-provided services…

 **Rizzo :09 Q: work through contracts.**

In the meantime, lawmakers are looking ahead to the upcoming legislative session. They have been able to pre-file legislation since July 1.

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.