***The Missouri Senate Minute* Script
Session Underway**

Now that session is back, Missouri senators are looking ahead to what to tackle.

Session started on Wednesday, with eight new members taking the oath of office.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden of Columbia also says transgender issues will likely be discussed this year…

 **Rowden :05 Q: that’s going away.**

Half of the Missouri Senate took the oath of office on Wednesday afternoon, as is the case every other year.

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Independence stresses he believes teacher pay remains a top priority…

 **Rizzo :07 Q: a lot higher.**

Next up for lawmakers will be committee hearings. This is where the first legislation of the year will be heard and possibly discussed later on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

The governor’s annual budget address to the Legislature is also a couple of weeks away. This will give Missouri senators the best sight into the year upcoming.

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