July 4, 1919

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was July 4, 1919, third day of the Extra Session of the 50th General Assembly.

While it may seem strange to think the Legislature met on Independence Day, remember there was a period of time in our state when the first day of the regular session fell on Christmas, and later, New Year’s Day.

In any event, this extra session was originally called to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which allows women to vote. The Legislature essentially took care of this in the opening day of session, but then passed a joint and concurrent resolution that would reinstate the death penalty in Missouri, something lawmakers had abolished only two years’ prior. In a message to the Missouri Senate, the governor agreed with their assessment and granted them authority to pass a bill that would undo the acts of 1917 and bring back capital punishment in Missouri.

From here, House Bill 1 — which was the appropriations measure for the extra session — and Senate Bill 2 — which would reinstate capital punishment — were first-read. Senators then moved to adjourn until the next day.

July 4, 1919, the date marking the third day of the Extra Session of the 50th General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: [*Journal of the Missouri Senate*](https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/senatej/id/88294/rec/166))