***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
DEI and the Budget**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review another issue that may make a return next year…

**Nat Snd :05 Q: the budget bills**

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. There was a wide variety of opinions on funding for D.E.I., and whether or not such funding should be included in the budget.

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 1 :27 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 1 :19 Q: work through contracts.**

Senator Hough says, when the Missouri Senate finished creating the final budget, it reflected what he considers “dinner-table conversation”…

 **Hough 2 :29 Q: on these bills.**

Senator Rizzo adds he expects to see more debate on this issue next year…

 **Rizzo 2 :14 Q: what we did.**

Lawmakers are looking ahead to the upcoming legislative session. They have been able to pre-file legislation since July 1. Pre-filed measures will receive their official bill numbers for 2024 starting on Friday, Dec. 1.

The Second Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly will begin in January.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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