***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
Final Month**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review a hectic week for the upper chamber…

 **Nat Snd 1 :02 Q: the Senate Appropriations….**

The main highlight for the week is the Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget.

The [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/3) spent two days reviewing the Missouri House of Representatives’ version of the state’s economic blueprint for the next fiscal year.

Senator Lincoln Hough of Springfield chairs the panel. He says the governor wanted three areas of Interstate 70 to be improved in Missouri. The senator says most of the interstate can be upgraded for $2.8 billion…

 **Hough :12 Q: maximum, 15 years.**

Senator Karla May of St. Louis, who also serves on the committee, spells out distinctly where the expansion would happen…

 **May :11 Q: Wentzville, going west.**

The full Missouri Senate could begin work on the budget next week. By law, the Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget has to be complete by 6 p.m. on Friday, May 5…

 **Nat Snd 2 :02 Q: for House Bills….**

Among the top priorities for a number of Missouri senators is foreign ownership of land in our state.

Senator Rick Brattin of Harrisonville handles [House Bills 903, 465, 430 & 499](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB903&year=2023&code=R) in the upper chamber…

 **Brattin :10 Q: state of Missouri.**

During discussion on the floor of the Missouri Senate, Sen. Tracy McCreery of St. Louis County points out she supports this idea for a specific reason…

 **McCreery :10 Q: own food production.**

Because of an amendment, House Bills 903, 465, 430 & 499 now returns to the Missouri House of Representatives for further consideration…

 **Nat Snd 3 :02 Q: the Senate Committee….**

Senator Curtis Trent of Battlefield sponsors [Senate Bill 74](https://www.senate.mo.gov/23info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=44451). He tells his colleagues his proposal would create a DWI diversion program…

 **Trent :06 Q: and encourage rehabilitation.**

During discussion, Sen. Steven Roberts of St. Louis says he wonder if this legislation is the best solution…

 **Roberts :07 Q: these interlock companies.**

Senate Bill 74 has set aside for further talks…

**Nat Snd 4 :04 Q: Senate, so far.**

Missouri senators are now entering the final three weeks of the 2023 regular legislative session.

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Cindy O’Laughlin of Shelbina says members are maintaining good relationships…

 **O’Laughlin :08 Q: lot of that.**

Missouri Senate Assistant Minority Floor Leader Doug Beck of St. Louis says he agrees things are going better than in recent years…

 **Beck :06 Q: within 20 minutes.**

The First Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly will end at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 12…

 **Nat Snd 5 :02 Q: no further business….**

Session will resume on Monday.

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.