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

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review work completed on the Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget…

**Nat Snd 1 :05 Q: really big week.**

The [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/3) spent part of *last* week reviewing the version of the budget sent by the Missouri House of Representatives earlier this month.

Senator Denny Hoskins of Warrensburg serves on this panel. He says he likes the I-70 improvement plan that is in the current Missouri Senate version of the budget…

 **Hoskins :09 Q: along that route.**

Senator Tracy McCreery of St. Louis County adds crafting the budget is the Legislature’s only constitutional requirement…

 **McCreery :09 Q: needs and obligations.**

 **Nat Snd 2 :02 Q: Senator from Greene….**

Approximately 12 hours were spent not only on the 13 bills that comprise the Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget, but also the remaining supplemental appropriations measure for the current fiscal year.

Senator Lincoln Hough of Springfield chairs the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee. He says [House Bill 2](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB2&year=2023&code=R) appropriates state funding for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Senator Hough also says this includes funding school transportation…

 **Hough :08 Q: and urban districts.**

But Sen. Karla May of St. Louis, who also serves on the panel, says she does not agree with the idea of removing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — or DEI — funding included in the budget…

 **May :09 Q: a global economy.**

Missouri Senate-House conference committees are expected to spend time next week working out a compromise on the next budget. The Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget has to be sent to the governor no later than 6 p.m. on Friday, May 5…

 **Nat Snd 3 :02 Q: Committee Substitute for….**

Wednesday afternoon and evening were dedicated to initiative petition reform.

[House Joint Resolution 43](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HJR43&year=2023&code=R) would ask voters to modify provisions for constitutional amendments. Senator Andrew Koenig is from Manchester…

 **Koenig :06 Q: as a referendum**

During discussion, Sen. Barbara Anne Washington of Kansas City says she believes there is a reason for the increased use of initiative petitions…

 **Washington :10 Q: them those things.**

Thursday morning, Missouri senators sent a new version of House Joint Resolution 43 to the Missouri House of Representatives for their consideration…

 **Nat Snd 4 :02 Q: be taken up….**

Also this week, Missouri senators spent time on [House Bill 402](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB402&year=2023&code=R).

Senator Elaine Gannon of De Soto handles this measure in the upper chamber. She tells her colleagues this proposal seeks to modify provisions relating to hospitals…

 **Gannon :10 Q: rural hospital closures.**

During discussion on the floor of the Missouri Senate, Sen. Lauren Arthur of Kansas City says the Show-Me State has seen a growing number of rural hospitals close in recent years…

 **Arthur :08 Q: kind of hospital.**

Also Thursday morning, the Missouri Senate sent House Bill 402 back to the Missouri House of Representatives…

 **Nat Snd 5 :02 Q: Monday, May 1….**

The final two weeks of session will start 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.