***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
Session Underway**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first, full week of the 2024 regular legislative session…

 **Nat Snd 1 :02 Q: the Education, Workforce….**

The first committee hearings of the 2024 regular legislative session were held this week.

Among these was a lengthy hearing held by the [Missouri Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/75).

Senator Andrew Koenig of Manchester is the chair. He sponsors [Senate Bill 727](https://www.senate.mo.gov/24info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=244), a measure that seeks to modify provisions of the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program…

 **Koenig :07 Q: on certain criteria.**

During the hearing, Sen. Tracy McCreery of St. Louis County told the sponsor she still has some unanswered questions about his proposal…

 **McCreery :09 Q: about that happening.**

 No committee action has yet been taken on Senate Bill 727…

**Nat Snd 2 :06 Q: to a vote**

In a session already filled with hundreds of bills, there are plenty of ideas to go around.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden of Columbia says the Legislature may review the earnings tax Kansas City and St. Louis-area residents pay each year…

 **Rowden 1 :07 Q: a win there.**

Over the years, the earnings tax has been a point of contention.

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Independence stresses this is a tax the affected residents vote on every few years…

 **Rizzo 1 :07 Q: Kansas City and St. Louis.**

Another idea is also picking up steam…

 **Nat Snd 3 :03 Q: a good start.**

Senator Rowden says, in regard to foreign ownership legislation, he believes it needs to be carefully crafted…

 **Rowden 2 :08 Q: to our state.**

Senator Rizzo says there were several lawmakers who cautioned against the approach taken to the current law, which took effect in 2013…

 **Rizzo 2 :07 Q: kinda bite ‘em.**

Other items may become larger than one session can hold…

 **Nat Snd 4 :06 Q: hospitals closing has.**

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Cindy O’Laughlin of Shelbina says she would like to take a serious look at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education…

 **O’Laughlin :08 Q: that aren’t working.**

For Sen. Rizzo, there are other priorities he believes need to be considered first…

 **Rizzo 3 :08 Q: still out there.**

Monday will be Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day…

 **Nat Snd 5 :04 Q: Tuesday at 4 p.m.**

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.