***The Missouri Senate Minute* Script**

Only a few hours remain before the Fiscal Year 2026 state operating budget needs to be finished.

Senator Lincoln Hough of Springfield chairs the [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/3).

He says lawmakers continue to work toward the 6 p.m., Friday, deadline…

 **Hough :08 Q: prioritizing the state.**

The first Missouri Senate-House conference committee hearings were scheduled for Wednesday of this week.

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Doug Beck of Affton says he believes the Missouri Senate version of the budget is better than what it could have been…

 **Beck :08 Q: done very well.**

The 12 bills, and one re-appropriation measure, that comprise the budget next go to the executive branch for final approval. Fiscal Year 2026 will begin on July 1.

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