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

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the preliminary version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state operating budget…

**Nat Snd 1 :08 Q: House of Representatives.**

For some, the budget process begins in December, when Missouri Senate, House and executive branch members create the Consensus Revenue Estimate, or CRE, to determine budget parameters for the next fiscal year. From here, the Missouri House of Representatives drafts the 13 appropriations bills for the next fiscal year, holds hearings and sends its version of the state spending blueprint to the Missouri Senate. When session starts, so does work for the [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/3), which also holds hearings between January and mid-April.

Senator Rusty Black of Chillicothe serves as vice-chair of the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee. He says the upper chamber will have to finish the budget within two weeks…

 **Black 1 :04 Q: is May 9.**

Senator Maggie Nurrenbern of Kansas City also serves on the panel. She says she believes the version of the budget the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee is bringing to the full Missouri Senate is better than what they received…

 **Nurrenbern 1 :09 Q: vital support services.**

 **Nat Snd 2 :09 Q: by the governor.**

Senator Black also notes what the governor suggested to lawmakers three months ago may look different now…

 **Black 2 :10 Q: the Foundation Formula.**

Senator Nurrenbern adds she believes these changes are, so far, improvements over the initial budget proposal…

 **Nurrenbern 2 :10 Q: and the House.**

 **Nat Snd 3 :02 Q: for House Bill….**

The 12 measures that comprise the Fiscal Year 2026 state operating budget, plus one re-appropriation bill, came to the floor of the Missouri Senate on Tuesday evening. Senator Lincoln Hough of Springfield chairs the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee. In the past, House Bill 1 always served as the public debt vehicle — but the state paid off all public debt a couple of years ago — so the budget now starts with [House Bill 2](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB2&year=2025&code=R), which is elementary and secondary education…

 **Hough 1 :09 Q: the Foundation Formula. (2x)**

During discussion, Sen. Nurrenbern mentioned part of the upcoming budget focuses on job retention…

 **Nurrenbern 3 :08 Q: about real seriously.**

[House Bill 3](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB3&year=2025&code=R) funds higher education in our state. Again, Sen. Hough…

 **Hough 2 :07 Q: up with inflation.**

As talks on the floor of the Missouri Senate continued, Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Doug Beck of Affton also discussed teacher pay…

 **Beck :10 Q: all these things.**

Now that the Missouri Senate has created its version of the budget, Missouri Senate-House conference committees will be formed to hammer out any differences. Then, the Missouri House of Representatives will send its final version to the Missouri Senate for approval and ultimate delivery to the governor.

Fiscal Year 2026 will start on July 1…

 **Nat Snd 4 :02 Q: No. 711, the….**

Wednesday afternoon and evening were dedicated to [House Bill 711](https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB711&year=2025&code=R). Senator Curtis Trent of Battlefield handles this legislation in the upper chamber. He tells his colleagues this measure would establish the "Public School Open Enrollment Act" to enable students to transfer to nonresident local education agencies…

 **Trent :09 Q: before July 1, 2027.**

During discussion on the floor of the Missouri Senate, Sen. Stephen Webber of Columbia talked about four-day school weeks…

 **Webber :10 Q: have decided that.**

House Bill 711 has been set aside for future consideration…

 **Nat Snd 5 :02 Q: 5th at 4 p.m….**

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.