**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Session Preview**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review what happened this year that may be seen again next year…

-Nat Snd-

*Senator Richard: “That’s something that I’ve been waiting to vote on for 50 years.”*

*Senator Keaveny: “I think there’s an appetite to, at least, have a debate on it.”*

Job creation remains a high priority for Missouri’s senators, and 2016 will be no different.

The question of how our state gets there remains unanswered, depending on which senator you ask.

Part of their job entails finding that method, that ability, to ensure Missouri has the right environment in place for job creators to thrive.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin says a holdover from this year that may see floor time again next year is Right-to-Work…

-Richard 1-

*“There is a balance. Sooner or later, I like to get to a vote, and — on issues — that’s really, really key. I’m inclined to get a vote on some things, and — if we can’t get to a vote, then we’ll use whatever parliamentary procedures you have to assure that balance. But, over time in the Senate, the previous question hasn’t been used that much. I don’t expect to be used that often in the future. It’s just on rare occurrences. But, I like to have that balance. Just like the filibuster is, there’s got to be an alternative to the filibuster, and I like to have that leverage.”*

And, Senate Minority Floor Leader Joseph Keaveny of St. Louis adds he would not be surprised to see the issue revisited…

-Keaveny 2-

*“Well, there’s definitely that potential, and, it’s incumbent on me — being minority leader — to try to work through that. Some of my members are still stinging from the way that it proceeded last year. We’ve got to work our way through that, and the majority leader, the president pro tem and myself — it’s incumbent upon us to improve the environment from that.”*

He also says he’s not sure why, because he does not believe Right-to-Work to be a slam dunk…

-Keaveny 3-

*“No. 1’s an open line of communication. No. 2, we need to focus on a smooth-running Senate, not something that’s rough shod, rammed through, that — quite frankly — really never had a chance of passing or going into law anyway.”*

In any event, Sen. Richard considers economic development to be “job one”…

-Richard 4-

*“There’s a lot of things that job creation. I thought Right-to-Work. If you look at the southern states, and you look at manufactures that go there, I thought that was an alternative. But job training, I think we still need to figure out what business needs and go out and train young people in high school, getting ready for college, ahead of time. Economic development, with transportation, I mean we still got that issue of how to fund our highways, and that’s a job creation. We got the Panama Canal that’s opening up. We need to expand our ports, so we can make sure we can get produce through the new Panama Canal.”*

Next week, we will hear about more about some of the topics that could be raised, when lawmakers return to the Capitol in just two weeks.

The Second Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly will convene at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus, see a complete list of prefiled legislation — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.