Feb, 16, 1995

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Feb. 16, 1995, the date the Missouri Senate was sent [House Bill 84](http://www.senate.mo.gov/95info/bills/HB084.htm), also known as “The Mule Bill.”

The connection between the mule and the state of Missouri goes back as far as state history. In fact, between 1870 and 1900, no state had more mules in it than the Show-Me State.

The effort to have the mule named as Missouri’s official state animal had gone on for several years. It would be two military veterans from southeast Missouri who would champion the cause in 1994. Their efforts led to drafting House Bill 84 the next year.

“The Mule Bill” passed the Missouri House by a vote of 139-11. It would be more than two months before the measure would be taken up by Missouri senators, who amended the bill to include square dancing as the official American folk dance of Missouri.

The Missouri Senate passed the measure 29-4 on May 9, 1995. It was signed into law on May 31.

Feb. 16, 1995, the date marking Missouri House passage of “The Mule Bill,” on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Missouri Senate Journal, Missouri House Journal and netstate.com*)