**The Senate Minute: Digital Audio File Script on SB 608**

Wednesday morning is devoted to discussion of [Senate Bill 608](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246590), a measure that would authorize certain [MO HealthNet](http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/) health care provider fees.

Senator David Sater of Cassville sponsors the proposal.

He tells his colleagues it’s estimated more than $18 billion could be saved every year…

**Sater 1 / Runs :12 / OC: their medical needs.**

*“If those patients, whose medical problems are considered avoidable — or non-urgent — were to take advantage of primary or preventative health care, and not rely on the emergency rooms for their medical needs.”*

Senator Jason Holsman of Kansas City tells the sponsor he likes the concept behind the idea…

**Holsman 2 / Runs :08 / OC: That’s the goal?**

*“This is, essentially, an effort to try and reduce emergency room visits and reduce cancellations, right? That’s the goal?”*

Senate Bill 608 has been given first-round approval and still needs another “yes” vote before it could move to the Missouri House of Representatives for similar consideration.

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