April 24, 1931

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was April 24, 1931, the day a Missouri Senate bill was signed into law that created the [Missouri State Highway Patrol](http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/Root/index.html).

Just eight years prior, then-Gov. Arthur Hyde spoke of the need for a statewide police force. In the years that would follow, several attempts at this legislation would be unsuccessful, for a myriad of reasons.

Senate Bill 36 became law on Sept. 14, 1931. The original Highway Patrol consisted of a superintendent, 10 captains and 115 patrolmen. However, since the budget for the first Patrol was smaller than needed, only 55 officers were hired.

Since 1931, the Highway Patrol has grown to more than 1,000 troopers assigned to one of nine troop headquarters. The first criminal laboratory for the Patrol came about in 1936. In 1962, the Patrol moved into its new state headquarters.

And it all started with the signing of Senate Bill 36, on April 24, 1931, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol)