**The Senate Minute: Digital Audio File Script on Budget**

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) could wrap up nearly two weeks of work on the budget they received from the Missouri House of Representatives this week.

Missouri senators want to pass the $27 billion spending plan for Fiscal Year 2017 ahead of the May 6 deadline.

Committee chair, Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia, says [Medicaid](https://www.medicaid.gov/) alone will cost the state nearly $400 million next year…

**Schaefer 1 / Runs :10 / OC: of those bills.**

*“We funded a lot of things in all those other House bills, and there’s things that matter to a whole lot of Missourians. If we stay at this level of growth, there is a question of what can remain in the rest of those bills.”*

But committee member, Sen. Shalonn “Kiki” Curls of Kansas City, adds she does not want to see cuts made to needed services…

**Curls 2 / Runs :08 / OC: else it is.**

*“I think, here in Missouri, we’re caught in a fish bowl — whether it happens to be that we happen to be the hardest to qualify for Medicaid, whether it happens to be that we have the lowest-paid state workers or whatever else it is.”*

Full Missouri Senate debate on the budget could start on Thursday.

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