**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Floor Action and Budget**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review action taken on the Missouri Senate floor and on the budget…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :04 / OC: get to that.**

Senator Curls: *“I have a lot of questions for the department in this pharmacy line.”*

Senator Schaefer: *“Well, we’re going to get to that….”*

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

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 :11 / OC: of those bills.**

*“We funded a lot of things in all those other House bills that we went through this week, 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 :04 / OC: else it is.**

*“Whether it happens to be that we happen to be the hardest to qualify for Medicaid, or whatever else it is.”*

Missouri senators gave their approval on Thursday. The budget now goes to a Missouri Senate-House conference committee, and a final product could be approved before the end of April…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :04 / OC: 1631. I do.**

*“I now move that we third-read and finally pass House Bill 1631. I do….”*

Time was spent on Tuesday afternoon and evening debating [House Bill 1631](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB1631&year=2016&code=R), a measure that would modify provisions of law relating to voter identification.

The proposal is sponsored by Sen. Will Kraus of Lee’s Summit…

**Kraus 3 / Runs :03 / OC: cheat the system.**

*“We are finding more people trying to cheat the system.”*

During discussion, Sen. Curls mentioned one alternative would be to let people register to vote when they sign up for assistance programs…

**Curls 4 / Runs :08 / OC: an effective tool.**

*“I mean, if we are here, really to try to determine whether people are really who they say they are — when they come to vote — I think, certainly, that would be an effective tool.”*

House Bill 1631 has been set aside for future discussion.

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :02 / OC: Senator from Greene.**

*“…Informal Calendar, and I’d ask you recognize the Senator from Greene….”*

Wednesday was spent on three issues that relate to criminal justice, including [Senate Bill 661](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246618).

Sponsor, Sen. Bob Dixon of Springfield, says this relates to deadly force…

**Dixon 5 / Runs :10 / OC: Supreme Court case.**

*“Ferguson…the confusing set of jury instructions that were given because our statutes conflict with the* [Tennessee v. Garner](http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/471/1.html)*,* [*U.S. Supreme Court*](http://www.supremecourt.gov/) *case.”*

During debate on [Senate Bill 588](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246607), which would modify provisions relating to petitions for the expungement of criminal records, Sen. Curls mentioned a lot of time has gone into crafting this…

**Curls 6 / Runs :11 / OC: be most fair.**

*“That a lot of work to really try to hash out and get to a final document where, of course, not all sides were happy. But, certainly, they came to a resolution on what they thought would be most fair.”*

Also, [Senate Bill 590](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246617) — legislation that seeks to modify provisions related to crime — was debated this week.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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