**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Floor Debate**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the actions taken, as session enters its final month…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :03 / OC: budget. It’s balanced.**

*“Very happy with how that came out and I think it’s a good budget. It’s balanced….”*

The Fiscal Year 2017 state operating budget became a reality on Thursday afternoon.

Missouri Senate [Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) Chair, Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia, says money has been added for schools…

**Schaefer 1 / Runs :10 / OC: the formula schools.**

*“So, the governor says — you know — he wants 5 million [dollars], 7 million [dollars] more than we put in. I mean, the amount that we put in is the threshold amount to make sure that we don’t have that problem with the hold-harmless and the formula schools.”*

But Sen. Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur is not happy that savings from last year’s reduction in TANF benefits will be used to fund [Alternatives to Abortion](http://a2a.mo.gov/)…

**Schupp 2 / Runs :11 / OC: kinds of services.**

*“So, $4.3 million now going to Alternatives to Abortion, and it’s suggested that these low-income people who can’t go to Planned Parenthood anymore may go to one of these kinds of services.”*

The $27 billion spending plan awaits the governor’s signature.

Fiscal Year 2017 will start on July 1…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :03 / OC: House Bill 1979.**

*“Mister President, I move that Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1979….”*

Wednesday evening saw debate on three ethics reform proposals.

[House Bill 1979](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB1979&year=2016&code=R) relates to elected officials becoming lobbyists, [House Bill 2166](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB2166&year=2016&code=R) pertains to a gift ban and [House Bill 2203](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB2203&year=2016&code=R) relates to campaign gift funds.

During debate on House Bill 2166, bill handler — Sen. Bob Onder of Lake St. Louis — says a compromise was worked out on an allowable limit on lobbyist gifts…

**Onder 3 / Runs :08 / OC: to the member.**

*“To say that a given member could take no more than, let’s say $50 worth of gifts a day or 40, you’d have to shift the oneous to the member.”*

But, Sen. Schupp is concerned dropping the limit to $40 is not enough…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :13 / OC: than no ban**

*“So, you get enough lobbyists together, and you can send a legislator and his or her family to any kind of sports game, to anything. I mean, this is no different than no ban.”*

This measure has been set aside for future debate.

House Bills 1979 and 2203 have been sent to the executive branch…

**Nat Snd 3 / Runs :02 / OC: Senate Bill 590.**

*“Thank you, Mr. President. I now move that Senate Bill 590….”*

Monday afternoon and evening saw lengthy debate on [Senate Bill 590](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246617), a measure that seeks to modify provisions related to crime.

Senate Bill 590 was sent to the Missouri House of Representatives on Thursday…

**Nat Snd 4 / Runs :03 / OC: senator from the.**

*“House Committee Substitute for House Bill 1-5-6-2, senator from the….”*

Tuesday afternoon saw time spent on [House Bill 1562](http://house.mo.gov/BillSummary.aspx?bill=HB1562&year=2016&code=R), legislation that would expand the crime of sexual trafficking of a child to include advertising a child participating in a commercial sexual act.

House Bill 1562 has been amended and now moves back to the Missouri House.

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.