

MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE REPORT 3/5/09

House Budget Committee Chairman Allen Icet has recommended cutting the Missouri Division of Tourism budget by six million dollars.

In action this week, Icet introduced proposed new state budget bills that will reduce the governor's recommended spending proposals by hundreds of millions of dollars. Included in Icet's recommendations is reducing the Division of Tourism budget from \$23.7 million to \$17.7 million.

Icet ignored the recommendation of his House Appropriations Committee on Economic Development, which supported keeping the Division of Tourism budget at \$23.7 million, the agency's current budget level. The governor also recommended the \$23.7 million budget figure for the Division.

Icet is utilizing little of Missouri's share of the federal stimulus money in his budget blueprint. Gov. Jay Nixon used substantial sums of stimulus funding in his proposed new budget, which would go into effect July 1.

Icet's House Budget Committee is expected to finalize his spending recommendations next week. The full House will vote on the budget recommendations the week of March 23.