

## MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From: Dale Amick 4/2/09

The Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a 23.7-million-dollar budget for the Division of Tourism with funding coming from federal stabilization money recently sent from Congress.

The committee Wednesday made the decision to allot the Division the same budget as its current funding level. Gov. Jay Nixon had recommended the Division receive the same budget figure of 23.7 million dollars.

The Missouri House in its recently-approved funding blueprint for fiscal 2010 had allotted the Division about 20.6 million dollars with all of that money coming from state general revenue as has occurred in the past.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Gary Nodler was able to utilize the federal money to keep the Division budget at the same level despite a large drop in state revenue due to the current recession. Other strong supporters of this action on the committee were Sens. Rob Mayer and Frank Barnitz.

The committee is expected to finalize its budget blueprint next week and send it onto the full Senate for approval. Once that is complete, the two houses will appoint a joint conference committee to iron out differences on the budget between the two chambers. A new budget must be approved by May 8.