

MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From Dale Amick 3/26/09

The Missouri House passed and sent to the Senate a proposed new state budget that provides close to 21 million dollars for the Division of Tourism.

Rep. Dennis Woods, working with House Budget Chairman Allen Icet, was successful in adding two million dollars to the Division budget by amendment on the House floor.

The House Budget Committee originally had recommended only about \$18.5 million dollars for the Division budget, over five million dollars less than recommended by the House Appropriations Committee.

The House Budget Committee cut funding for most state programs due to the economic recession that has reduced available state revenue. In addition, the House Republican leadership has decided not to use federal stimulus money to finance ongoing state programs,

Gov. Jay Nixon had recommended \$23.7 million dollars for the Division budget, the same amount as this year's spending level. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to begin review of the House-approved budget next week. Look for major changes in the House version over in the Senate

Eight weeks remain in the 2009 legislative session.