

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 3/18/10

The House Budget Committee has approved a 19.4 million dollar budget for the Division of Tourism. The committee-approved budget now goes to the full House for consideration.

The committee defeated an amendment to cut \$150,000 from the Division offered by Rep. Mike Cunningham to help fund the Lieutenant Governor's Veteran Remembrance Program. Speaking in committee in support of tourism and against cuts to the Division were Reps. Charlie Schlottach and Rachel Bringer.

Budget sheets used by the House committee provide for one million dollars of the proposed Division budget to be used for the Tour of Missouri Race.

In an unusual move, the State Senate will suspend activity this Tuesday to work on ideas to cut the state budget. Senate President Charlie Shields has appointed eight committees to meet Tuesday and come up with cost-cutting moves to reduce state government. Part of the focus of the committees will be suggestions for government reduction from the public offered on the Senate's website.

The exact shortfall of the new state budget is unclear. Some believe the budget version approved by the House Budget Committee could be 200-400 million dollars short of a balanced budget.