

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 1/29/10

Appropriation committees in both the House and Senate have begun deliberations on writing a new state budget set to go into effect July 1.

This coming week, the House Appropriations Committee for Economic Development will take its first look at the governor's proposed budget for the Division of Tourism.

Gov. Jay Nixon recommended 20.4 million dollars for the Division in the next fiscal year. That figure is more than what the Division will end up spending this fiscal year, but short of what the legislature recommended last year.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to review the Division budget within the next two weeks.

State revenues continue to fall, making the drafting of a new state budget even more difficult. Missouri's constitution requires a balanced state budget.

Missouri is considered to be in better financial shape than most other state governments across the country. But the current budget and the proposed new budget both will rely on heavy amounts of federal stimulus funding.