

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 22510

The House Budget Committee has begun work on drafting a new state budget, amid reports that incoming state revenue continues to plummet.

State revenue is down about 13 per cent from last year and may get worse in the coming months. The state is mired in its worst financial crisis in memory with no prospects for getting better in the near future.

The Budget Committee Chairman Allen Icet earlier told his appropriations subcommittees to cut 5 per cent from the governor's proposed budget recommendations. Some cut more.

The House Appropriations Committee for Economic Development reduced the Division of Tourism budget by one million dollars from the governor's recommended 20.4-million-dollar total for the agency. That committee chairman, Rep. Charles Schlottach, has pledged to work to find additional funding for the Division.

Slottach led an effort to defeat a move by Rep. Doug Funderburk to cut five million dollars from the Division's proposed budget.