

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 4/15/10

The Missouri Senate passed its version of the new state budget without any discussion on the entire Department of Economic Development budget, which includes the Division of Tourism.

The Senate left intact Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Mayer's decision to cut \$5.9 million from the Tourism budget adopted by the House (\$19.5 million). The Division budget level under the Senate plan is around \$13.5 million. The governor originally recommended \$20.4 million for the agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

All indications are the governor's staff approved of the budget cuts in the Division made by the Senate Appropriations Chairman and ratified by the full Senate.

Since the Senate and House passed different budget versions, the issue will now go to a joint conference committee for compromise beginning next week.