

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 4/23/10

A joint Senate/House conference committee has adopted a \$13.5 million budget for the Division of Tourism for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The \$13.5 million figure is expected to be endorsed by the full Senate and House next week. The governor then can sign that figure into law or reduce it further.

The governor in January had recommended a \$20.4 million budget for the Division. The House had adopted a \$19.4 million budget for the agency. The Senate reduced the Division budget recommendation to \$13.5 million last week.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Mayer was adamant in the joint conference committee to keep the funding level for the Division at \$13.5 million. He turned down arguments by Rep. Rachel Bringer to raise the Division funding to a higher level. Mayer was the architect in the Senate Appropriations Committee to originally cut the Division budget to \$13.5 million.

Major cuts in Division programs are expected when the new budget blueprint takes effect.