

Missouri Legislative Update - 1/12/12

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The Missouri General Assembly completed the second week of the 2012 legislative session with little fanfare.

A few legislative committees began public hearings on bills this past week, but for the most part the legislature is waiting for the governor's legislative and budget priorities. Gov. Jay Nixon is scheduled to give his State of the State address next Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Hundreds of bills have been filed in the Senate and House. It is expected public hearings on many of those bills will begin in earnest this coming week. Committee work will dominate the next few weeks at the state Capitol.

Once the governor gives his budget blueprint next week, the various House appropriations committees will begin work on drafting their own budget recommendations for the coming fiscal year that begins July 1, 2012.

The state budget may need to be cut by up to one-half billion dollars this year due to a combination of a loss of federal stimulus funds, mandated increases in Medicaid and corrections programs, and state revenue not meeting expectations.