

**MTC Legislative Update
1/19/12**

Gov. Jay Nixon offered his budget blueprint to the legislature this past week, cutting the state budget by one-half billion dollars but keeping the Division of Tourism at its current funding level.

The governor's budget recommendations include massive cuts to higher education and the elimination of more than 800 state jobs.

The Division of Tourism budget remained at 13.4 million dollars under the governor's proposed budget.

House and Senate appropriation committees began work almost immediately to begin drafting a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

With the end of federal stimulus money, combined with mandated increases in programs such as Medicaid, the legislature is being forced to cut the state budget by one-half billion dollars.

Compounding the problem, tax revenue is coming into the state treasury well below expectations.