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Act into law in 2021.

Jan. 23, 2023



*By Greg Stohr, Bloomberg News (TNS)*

The U.S. Supreme Court turned away a Missouri appeal that sought to ensure states can cut taxes even as they receive \$195 billion in federal pandemic relief money.

The justices without comment left in place a federal appeals court decision that said Missouri lacked legal standing to press a lawsuit over the requirements imposed under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Missouri is among several Republican-led states that sued after President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion measure into law in March 2021. The law includes a provision

that says a state can't use the money "to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction

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state was seeking "a quintessentially advisory opinion," something federal courts don't issue, Judge Jane Kelly wrote for the panel.

The rejection is a victory for the Biden administration, which is fighting legal battles around the country over the restriction. A different federal appeals court, the Cincinnati-based 6th Circuit, said in November the provision is too vague to be enforced.

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