

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

NEWS FOR THE CLIENTS AND FRIENDS OF BASS, BERRY & SIMS PLC

Friday, May 8, 2009

Tennessee's budget in a verse:

“Gloom, despair, and agony on me
Deep, dark depression, excessive misery
If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all
Gloom, despair, and agony on me.”

Buck Owens, Roy Clark and friends (circa 1969)

The Funding Board met yesterday and set the general fund revenue range for next fiscal year at 9.7% below actual revenue for the current year. In the current year, ending June 30, revenue is estimated to be \$1.2 billion below the amount budgeted a year ago. Governor Bredesen conceded that “agony on me” may well apply to state employees, some of whom may be laid off. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090508/NEWS0201/905080364/Tennessee+weighs+layoffs+as+shortfall+worsens>

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate provisions of the bill allowing handguns in bars, <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/may/07/tennessee-house-gives-final-guns--restaurants-bill/> and the Senate Judiciary Committee recommended a bill to allow handguns in parks. The guns-in-parks bill has already passed the House. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090506/NEWS0201/905060397/Senate+bill+would+allow+guns+in+local+parks++too>

Meanwhile, no fewer than three bills addressing the appointment and election of judges advanced in the General Assembly's committee system. This issue will be one of the most contentious in the last month of this session. Unless a bill is passed, there will be no mechanism after June 30 to select judges for vacant seats. <http://tba2.org/tbatoday/2009/TBAtoday05-06-2009.htm>

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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- Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 3:10 p.m. **SB0976, allowing permit holders to carry guns in state parks, passes Senate Judiciary Committee.**
- Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 4:10 p.m. **Charter school bill advances from K-12 to full education.**
- Thursday, May 7, 2009, 10:45 a.m. **SB2133 re charter schools passes the Senate.**

Notes about Twitter

* **Twitter** is a free on-line service Bass, Berry & Sims has adopted to keep clients, firm friends and co-workers abreast of the goings on of Tennessee Government. It is a real-time feed of quick, frequent messages sent by Dick Lodge, Justin Pitt, Leslie Hafner and Linda Heft.

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