

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT

Update

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

Friday, April 24, 2009

House Speaker Kent Williams this week predicted that the legislature would adjourn the first week of June. If Speaker Williams is accurate, there are six weeks remaining in this legislative session. Two of those weeks are prior to the revenue estimate that is scheduled to be made by the State Funding Board May 11.

The bill allowing guns in restaurants appears to be headed for a conference committee because the Senate and House have not been able to resolve the differences in the two bills. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/apr/23/house-rejects-senate-changes-guns--restaurants-pro/> The bill allowing guns in parks also appears to be traveling the same road. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090424/NEWS0201/904240349>

The Senate Environment Committee has completed its work for the year, the first Senate committee to do so. While the committee is officially closed, it can be re-opened for additional business.

In the political world, Tennessee Democrats, having lost control of the state House in November, have created a separate entity to raise money for legislative races and to recruit candidates. The chairman of the party was elected in January over the opposition of the governor and four members of Congress. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090424/NEWS0201/904240373>

The field of candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor in August 2010 increased this week. Mike McWherter, a Jackson businessman and son of former Governor Ned McWherter, announced that he would seek the nomination. <http://blogs.knoxnews.com/knx/humphrey/2009/04/mcwherter-announces-for-govern.html>

He joins Nashville businessman Ward Cammack, former House Majority Leader Kim McMillan, and state Senator Roy Herron. Rumors continue to circulate that Senators Jim Kyle of Memphis and Andy Berke of Chattanooga may also run. The field for the Republican nomination appears to be set with four candidates: Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, Congressman Zack Wamp, and Shelby County District Attorney Bill Gibbons.

In a surprise announcement, Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton announced that he has created an exploratory committee to consider running against incumbent Democratic Congressman Steve Cohen. Cohen, a former state Senator, is in his second term and represents the majority black 9th Congressional District in Shelby County (Memphis). <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/apr/21/memphis-mayor-willie-herenton-mulls-run-congress/>

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

If you have not bookmarked Bass, Berry & Sims' government updates Twitter* page or signed up as one of our instant update Followers**, please consider doing so.

- Thursday, April 23, 2009, 10:30 a.m. **SB0303, prohibiting text messaging while driving, passes the Senate.**
- Thursday, April 23, 2009, 11:30 a.m. **House and Senate announce deadline for amendments to the appropriations bill is April 30.**
- Thursday, April 23, 2009, 11:30 a.m. **Senate Environment has announced it is shut down subject to the call of the chairman.**

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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*****Tweets** are the quick, frequent messages sent to you by our Government Advocacy Team.



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