

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT

## *Update*

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

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**Friday, February 27, 2009**

As the Tennessee General Assembly continued to mark time while bills were filed, members of the body began to discuss political ambitions that center on the 2010 race to succeed Phil Bredesen as governor. On Thursday, Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey (R-Blountville) let it be known that he is seriously considering the race for the Republican nomination. If he decides to run, he will join Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, Chattanooga Congressman Zack Wamp and Memphis District Attorney Bill Gibbons.

At a meeting of the lobbyist association on Thursday morning, Senate Democratic Leader Jim Kyle of Memphis told the group that he wanted to succeed Bredesen. If he decides to run, he will join his colleague first term Chattanooga Senator Andy Berke in the race for the Democratic nomination. House Democratic Leader Gary Odom has also let it be known that he is contemplating joining the competition. In addition, former House Democratic Leader Kim McMillan of Clarksville and Nashville businessman Ward Cammack have announced their candidacies for the Democratic nomination.

Under Tennessee's campaign finance and ethics laws, members of the General Assembly cannot raise money or seek commitments for campaign financing while the General Assembly is in session.

Meanwhile, incumbent Governor Phil Bredesen announced that Wacker Chemie AG, a German chemical company, will invest \$1 billion in a hyperpure polycrystalline silicon manufacturing facility in Bradley County, Tennessee. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/feb/27/ripple-effect-hoped/>

Previously, on July 15, 2008, Volkswagen announced its decision to build an automotive production facility in neighboring Hamilton County/Chattanooga. That announcement was followed on December 15, 2008 by the announcement that Hemlock Semiconductor will build a polycrystalline silicon manufacturing plant in Clarksville, Tennessee. The announced investment in each of the three facilities is \$1 billion or greater.

Earlier in the week, Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen indicated he was examining whether or not Tennessee would accept some provisions in the federal stimulus package relating to unemployment benefits. Bredesen said that his concern was that by accepting the supplemental stimulus unemployment benefits Tennessee would be required to expand its unemployment benefits program on a permanent basis, even though the stimulus funding is for only two years. He later said on Thursday on MSNBC that the state would likely take the funding. <http://timesfreepress.com/news/2009/feb/24/perdue-bredesen-may-reject-jobless-stimulus-fundin/?local>

[www.twitter.com/TNGovNow](http://www.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\*\*, here is a sample of the real-time information you missed this week:

- Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 10:12 a.m. **House Civil Practice subcommittee presented information by Vanderbilt professor on what would happen if judicial selection commission were to sunset.**
- Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 12:47 p.m. **Rep. John Litz (D-Morristown) offers a resolution to the house regarding stimulus money...the resolution would support receiving federal money; those members who don't want to take the money for their district will have the dollars redistributed to other districts.**

### 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.

\*\* **Followers** are the clients, firm friends and co-workers who have signed-up for the free Twitter service and have the Twitter Tweets\*\*\* sent to their Mobile Phone, BlackBerry, or personal Twitter page.

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



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