

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, June 19, 2009

The first session of the 106th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned Thursday night, June 18. The second session will convene at noon Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Late Wednesday night, the legislature [passed the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009](#).

The budget conformed in significant part to Governor Bredesen's proposal. Bonds for road and bridge projects will be authorized on a year-to-year basis, rather than a multi-year authorization as requested by Governor Bredesen. The budget spends 10% fewer state revenue dollars than budgeted in the fiscal year just ending. The total budget, including non-recurring federal stimulus money, is just under \$27 billion.

On the last legislative day, after a session-long debate, [enrollment at charter schools in Tennessee was expanded](#).

A ["Tennessee Small Business Investment Company Credit Act"](#) was adopted. The program will be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development and will require participation by Tennessee entities.

The legislature allowed the Tennessee Ethics Commission, created in 2006, to sunset and merged its functions with those of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance, creating the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance.

Veteran journalist [Tom Humphrey's blog](#) on the Knoxville News-Sentinel's web page has a good survey of the last days of this session.

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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- Monday, June 15, 2009, 2:08 p.m. **Budget subcommittee of the House passes out the technical corrections and omnibus budget balancing bills to full Finance.**
- Monday, June 15, 2009, 2:20 p.m. **Speaker Williams makes remarks to Budget subcommittee; characterizes proposed budget cuts as "deep but compassionate".**

- Monday, June 15, 2009, 2:22 p.m. **The budget bill passes out of budget subcommittee with two amendments; makes some improvements.**
- Monday, June 15, 2009, 8:34 p.m. **Appropriations bill on Senate floor tomorrow. Senate session begins at 11:00 a.m.**

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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