

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

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**Friday, April 17, 2009**

Guns and judges were hot topics in Legislative Plaza in Nashville this week. The state Senate passed a bill that would allow guns in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages. The House previously passed a similar, but not identical, bill. The bills, therefore, need to be reconciled. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090417/NEWS0201/904170358>

The issue of judicial appointments continued to make headlines as Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Janice Holder endorsed the current merit selection process that will sunset on June 30, 2009 if not readopted by the General Assembly.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/apr/16/ramsey-says-justice-holder-crossed-line/>

Ron Ramsey, speaker of the Senate, lieutenant governor and candidate for the 2010 Republican gubernatorial nomination, suggested that, by advocating for a judicial selection process, the chief justice was violating the court's code of ethics, a point with which the chief justice disagreed.

It appears now that the Funding Board will meet on May 11 to set the revenue targets for the fiscal year beginning June 30, 2009. The revenue estimate is an important part of the budget process. Following that meeting it is widely anticipated that the legislature, as it moves toward adjournment, will turn its attention, almost completely (save for judicial appointment legislation), to the budget. With regard to adjournment, the clerk of the Senate suggested on Thursday that the Senate anticipates adjourning by Memorial Day weekend and would consider recessing if the House is not prepared to pass the budget in the same time frame.

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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## **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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