

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, May 1, 2009

Guns and judges were front and center in legislative discussions this week. To resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill allowing guns in restaurants, a conference committee was appointed. <http://blogs.knoxnews.com/knx/humphrey/2009/04/guns-in-bars-conference-commit.html>
The conference committee will meet Monday, May 4.

With Tennessee's judicial selection process scheduled to expire June 30, House and Senate committees passed two different bills. The House Government Operations Committee recommended a bill that retains a version of the judicial selection commission process that is in place now. <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/apr/30/judicial-elections-reviewed/> The bill passed by the Senate Government Operations Committee eliminates the judicial selection commission and the process of vetting applicants for judicial vacancies, and elects Supreme Court judges by popular vote.

Public debate on the state budget appears to have begun yesterday. Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey critiqued the use of federal stimulus money for recurring expenses. The Democratic leaders of both houses responded quickly. The Funding Board will meet today to hear reports from its experts. Based on these reports, it will provide a revenue estimate range to the General Assembly. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090501/NEWS0201/905010351>

Finally, it appears that the Senate is moving more quickly toward adjournment than the House. The Senate committees on environment and transportation are closed, subject to the call of the chair, having completed their business. The chairs of the Senate State and Local Government Committee and the Judiciary Committee have announced their hope that their last meetings will be during the week of May 4. In the House, several subcommittees have announced that the meetings this week will be their last meeting of the year. These include the Civil Practice Subcommittee of House Judiciary, the State Government Subcommittee of the State and Local Government Committee, the Environment Subcommittee of the Environment and the Consumer Affairs Committee. The House Finance Committee will have its last budget hearing on Tuesday, May 5.

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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- Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 9:37 a.m. **Although environment subcommittee previously announced today's meeting would be the final calendar, Chair Tidwell said the subcommittee will meet again.**

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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