

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, March 13, 2009

The Tennessee General Assembly is slowly gearing up for consideration of the 2,350 or so bills pending. The 900-pound gorilla, the governor's budget proposal for FY10, is not yet in the room. It is at the printers, we are told, and expected to be released Monday, March 23, when Governor Bredesen will address the General Assembly for the second time in six weeks.

In the meantime, the House Republican Caucus decided to allow House Speaker Kent Williams to caucus with it despite having earlier barred him from a caucus meeting. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/mar/11/gop-caucus-members-will-allow-williams/> Williams was elected with the votes of all 49 House Democrats and his own vote.

Governor Bredesen appointed Charles Harrison, formerly an assistant to the comptroller, to serve as his special assistant for the administration of federal stimulus funds. <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009903100359> Harrison worked previously for John Morgan, who was Comptroller of the Treasury until January 15, 2009, and is now Deputy Governor.

With regard to the stimulus, Governor Bredesen noted that Tennessee's two higher education systems – the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents – will receive approximately \$770 million in federal funds over the next two years. This, Bredesen says, obviates the need to cut about \$900 million from the budgets of the two systems. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/mar/10/higher-ed-dodges-bullet/>

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:

- Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 11:43 a.m. **Senate Judiciary Committee debates SJR 0127 which seeks to amend Tennessee Constitution to provide that nothing in Constitution guarantees right to abortion.**
- Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 11:44 a.m. **Proposed amendment to SJR 0127 by Senator Kyle defeated 6-3.**

- Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 12:07 p.m. **Motion by Senator Jackson to recess Judiciary Committee to hear testimony from AG regarding Senator Jackson's proposed amendment to SJR 0127 defeated.**
- Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 12:09 p.m. **SJR 0127 passes in Senate Judiciary Committee 6-2. One member passes.**
- Thursday, March 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m. **During House Floor session, Rep. Casada's (R-Franklin) bill to delete requirement for thumbprint to purchase firearms runs into opposition.**
- Thursday, March 12, 2009, 10:02 a.m. **HB 254 by Casada passes easily despite push back, 82-11.**

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.



J. Richard Lodge, Jr.
 (615) 742-6254
 (615) 742-2754 FAX
 dlodge@bassberry.com



Justin D. Pitt
 (615) 742-7737
 (615) 742-2798 FAX
 jpitt@bassberry.com



Leslie K. Hafner
 (615) 259-6342
 (615) 742-2801 FAX
 lhafner@bassberry.com

315 Deaderick Street • Suite 2700 • Nashville, TN 37238-3001 • (615) 742-6200
 The Tower at Peabody Place • 100 Peabody Place, Suite 900 • Memphis, TN 38103-3672 • (901) 543-5900
 1700 Riverview Tower • 900 S. Gay Street • Knoxville, TN 37902 • (865) 521-6200