

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT

Update

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

Friday, January 16, 2009

A week of drama in the organizational session of the 106th Tennessee General Assembly culminated Thursday with the election of Republicans to each of the three constitutional offices. Memphis business lawyer David Lillard was elected treasurer, Nashville business lawyer Justin Wilson was elected comptroller of the treasury, and businessman Trè Hargett, who has previously served in the House of Representatives and on the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, was elected secretary of state. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090116/NEWS0201/901160379>

John Morgan, the out-going comptroller, will be Governor Bredesen's deputy (chief of staff), replacing Stuart Brunson who resigned two weeks ago.

On Tuesday, January 13, Republican Ron Ramsey was re-elected speaker of the Senate and lieutenant governor. The Senate is controlled by Republicans 19-14.

Republican Kent Williams, a second-term member of the House of Representatives from Carter County, was elected speaker of the House by virtue of 49 Democratic votes and his own. The Republican nominee, Jason Mumpower, received the other 49 Republican votes. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/jan/14/williams-elected-as-house-speaker/>

Williams announced yesterday that he intended to have balanced representation on House committees and that members of both parties would be committee chairmen.

Lt. Governor Ramsey released the list of Senate committee chairs and members on Thursday. There are several different chairs than in the 105th General Assembly. Notably, Senator Jamie Woodson (R-Knoxville) is no longer chair of Education, though she remains a member. Rather, she has been appointed speaker pro tempore of the Senate. A full list of committees, chairs and members is available at <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/senate/committees/>.

House committee membership and officers have not been announced, and there is no definite time scheduled for the announcement.

The legislature adjourned the organizational session mid-day Thursday and will convene the regular session on Monday, February 9, 2009. The governor is scheduled to give his budget address at that time.

Tentative bill filing deadlines have been set for the Senate:

- February 12 is the cut off for filing unlimited bills by each senator; after this date each senator is limited to filing only nine additional bills; and
- February 26 is the final cut off for filing bills of general application in the Senate.

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:

- Monday, January 12, 2:51 p.m.
Bass Berry & Sims welcomes you to our Twitter of all things Tennessee General Assembly.
- Tuesday, January 13, 12:27 p.m.
Ron Ramsey elected speaker of the Senate and Lt. Governor. Vote 19-14, along party lines.
- Tuesday, January 13, 1:32 p.m.
Rep. Kent Williams is the speaker of the House by vote of 50-49. Rep. Kent Williams votes for himself along with 49 Democrats.
- Wednesday, January 14, 9:17 a.m.
Rep. Brian Kelsey (R-Memphis) asks Speaker Williams to resign.
- Thursday, January 14, 12:20 p.m.
House adjourns without making committee announcements.
- Thursday, January 14, 1 p.m.
Senate Commerce (Committee appointed): Chair Stanley, Vice Chair Bunch, Secretary Burks, Members Beavers, Burchett, Johnson, Ketron, Steward, Tate.

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.



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