

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

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## Friday, February 6, 2009

The first session of the 106th General Assembly will reconvene Monday afternoon. Governor Phil Bredesen will deliver his state of the state address about 6:00 p.m. central time. The speech can be seen on streaming video at <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>.

The address will be somewhat unusual in that the governor, with legislative leadership concurring, will not include in the speech his proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. Rather, a budget will not be sent to the general assembly for consideration until the federal stimulus package is passed by Congress and its fiscal impact on Tennessee understood, possibly not sooner than late March. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090206/NEWS0201/902060360/1009/NEWS02>

With the first bill-filing deadline Thursday, February 12, legislative committees will begin work by hearing presentations from various state departments.

- Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz will make a presentation separately to the Finance Committee of each house of the legislature.
- Senate State and Local Government will hear about the regulation of alcoholic beverages from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
- Senate Commerce Committee will hear a presentation from the Commissioner of Financial Institutions and representatives of Tennessee's banking sector.
- Senate Education Committee will hear a presentation from the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation, a state agency operating in the black.

[www.twitter.com/TNGovNow](http://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, February 4, 12:17 p.m.  
**Joint Select Committee on Business Taxes receives testimony that Tennessee's Unemployment Trust Fund does not have enough funds to be solvent through July 1, 2009.**
- Wednesday, February 4, 5 p.m.  
**Transportation Funding Options Select Study Committee ended [today] with no additional suggestions to the 106th General Assembly on ways to shore the Highway Fund. Committee will be extended to May 15.**
- Wednesday, February 4, 5:05 p.m.  
**[Transportation Funding Options Select Study Committee] Chairman Bill Harmon explained to the**

committee members that Tennessee needed to see how much the state would receive in funds through the stimulus package before a final report [could be issued].

## 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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