

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, March 20, 2009

Governor Phil Bredesen will address a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly Monday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m. to present his budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. The governor has indicated that he will lay out a four-year budget outline that includes the two-year federal stimulus package and anticipates gradually increasing state revenue. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090319/NEWS0201/903190353/1009/NEWS02>

Governor Bredesen's speech can be viewed on streaming video. <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/gov/budget/>

Bredesen's speech comes on the heels of Thursday's report that Tennessee's unemployment rate is the highest it has been in 36 years, 9.1% <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090320/BUSINESS01/903200372> and that Memphis-based business behemoth FedEx is laying off an additional 1,000 employees <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/mar/19/fedex-slash-another-1-billion-expenses/>.

<http://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, March 16, 2009, 5:07 p.m. **Joint Convention will meet at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, March 23 to hear Governor Bredesen's budget address.**
- Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 5:50 a.m. **Senate Commerce will hear SB 1623 regarding prepaid gift cards at 1:30 p.m. today.**
- Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 6:55 a.m. **Laurie Lee, Executive Director, Benefits Administration for CoverTN, explains current demands on program due to downturn in economy.**
- Thursday, March 18, 2009, 1:45 p.m. **The second meeting of the Senate Tax Subcommittee adjourns; next meeting likely on April 1 after governor proposes budget.**

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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