

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, April 3, 2009

The first session of the 106th General Assembly is likely eight or nine weeks from adjournment (maybe the week of Memorial Day). The committee calendars for the coming week are full. In addition, the House Finance Committee began hearing budget presentations from state government departments and agencies last week and will continue that process through the month of April. In the Senate, the committees of jurisdiction will begin hearing budget presentations from the same departments and agencies next week.

Senate leadership is urging committee chairs to finish committee business by the end of April. The Finance Committee is an obvious exception. It is unlikely that all committees will finish their business by the end of April, but some will and others will follow by mid-May.

Several subcommittees of the House have announced an intention to complete business in the next three weeks.

There may be more urgency than usual this year to complete the work of the General Assembly. Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey has announced that he will run for governor. Under current law, he cannot raise money for that effort until the legislature completes its business. In fact, Lieutenant Governor Ramsey this week bemoaned his inability to raise money and the disadvantage that presents for his campaign in relation to the other campaigns for the Republican nomination. Senate Democratic Leader Jim Kyle quickly suggested that Ramsey was not required to serve in the Senate and that he could resign if he wished to raise money for his gubernatorial campaign. <http://timesfreepress.com/news/2009/apr/02/tennessee-ramsey-targets--session-ban-campaign-fun/?local>

On Tuesday, Governor Bredesen announced an energy efficiency proposal that includes a limited statewide residential building code with a focus on energy efficiency in newly constructed homes. <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/governor/viewArticleContent.do?id=1353>

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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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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