

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

Friday, March 26, 2010

Fifteen months ago, Tennessee House Republican Leader Jason Mumpower was prepared to become the speaker of the House of Representatives. A week ago, he filed his re-election petition. Yesterday, Mumpower announced that he would not run for re-election.

In January 2009, Mumpower's Republican Caucus held 50 of the 99 seats in the Tennessee House of Representatives, and Mumpower was the caucus nominee for speaker. He lost the election 50-49 when all Democrats and current speaker (and then-Republican) Kent Williams voted for Williams instead of Mumpower. The story is [in the Kingsport Times News](#).

On the other end of the state, [the NCAA denied the University of Memphis' appeal](#) and upheld the forfeiture of the men's basketball team's 38 wins (including a Final Four appearance) in the 2007-2008 season. Memphis' coach that season, John Calipari, is now the coach at the University of Kentucky, and the Wildcats are in the Elite Eight.

The Senate General Welfare Committee approved the Tennessee Hospital Association's 3.5% "hospital coverage fee" to raise \$230 million to match federal Medicaid money to offset planned cuts in Tennessee's Medicaid program. Andy Sher with the [Chattanooga Times Free Press writes the story](#).

Representative Stacy Campfield (R-Knoxville), a candidate for the State Senate, and the University of Tennessee, continue their prickly relationship. Campfield is sponsor of a bill that would prohibit the university from disciplining student athletes for possessing firearms. The story is [in the Knoxville News Sentinel](#).

The race for the Republican nomination for governor continues to draw comment. [The Commercial Appeal analyzed the race](#) from a Memphis/Shelby County point of view last Sunday.

Shelby County District Attorney [Bill Gibbons will drop out of the race](#) for the Republican nomination today, reports WREG in Memphis.

The first independent poll of the race for Tennessee [has been released by Rasmussen](#).

A final note: former Bass, Berry & Sims attorney [Jerry Martin has been nominated by President Obama](#) to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee.

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