

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, February 13, 2009

Governor Phil Bredesen delivered his seventh State of the State address to the Tennessee General Assembly Monday evening. He asserted that “it made no sense to submit an extremely painful budget” until the state knew what the effect of the federal stimulus package might be. The General Assembly agreed with him and passed a resolution allowing for the governor’s budget to be submitted as late as March 31, 2009. The governor said that he expected to be able to deliver the budget three or four weeks after “federal action is completed” on the stimulus package.

The governor then discussed healthcare, education, and job creation. A specific suggestion made by the governor was to “develop a solar institute in Tennessee that is the basic research leader in making solar power practical.” The governor will address the General Assembly again when his budget is delivered. The State of the State address can be found at www.tennesseeanytime.org/gov/state-of-the-state/.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House and Senate Finance Committees heard separately from Commissioner of Finance and Administration Dave Goetz that state tax collections are \$522 million under budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

House Speaker Kent Williams of Carter County was expelled by the Tennessee Republican Party, and the Carter County Republican Party then disassociated itself from the state Republican Party.

The first bill-filing deadline came and went on Thursday, February 12. From the legislature’s website 1,948 bills were introduced yesterday in the Senate. Each senator is allotted only nine additional measures in the next two weeks. Excluding the administration’s legislative package and the few bills that will be introduced as committee initiatives, 2,245 will be the approximate number of bills at the final filing deadline. In 2007, the number of bills by the same measure was 2,164.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, February 17, taking Monday off to observe President’s Day.

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, February 9, 3:46 p.m.
Senate Joint Resolution 44 passes. Allows for budget to be delivered to General Assembly as late as March 31, 2009.

- Tuesday, February 10, 6:40 a.m.
Commissioner Goetz reports to House Finance Committee that tax collections are \$522 million off budget.
- Tuesday, February 10, 9:20 a.m.
House Speaker Williams visiting all House committees to welcome and ask for fairness and civility.
- Tuesday, February 10, 9:24 a.m.
Senate State & Local Government Committee chair Ketron tells committee leadership would like committee business done by April 1.

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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