

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

May 14, 2010

The Tennessee General Assembly got down to budget business this week. Late Thursday, the Senate Finance Committee considered the tax measures proposed by Governor Bredesen to raise \$138 million to balance the budget. The committee amended all but \$18 million of increased revenue out of the bill. It and other budget-related measures will be considered on the Senate floor the week of May 24. The Senate will not have a floor session next week as the body conserves its remaining three legislative days and works on other budget bills in the Finance Committee.

The House Finance Committee will meet next week to consider budget matters. There appears to be a stronger desire in the House than in the Senate to rely on reserve funds and selected small tax measures to balance the budget. Unlike the Senate, the House will convene in session next week.

Also, on Thursday House Speaker Kent Williams fainted as he presided over the House session. He recovered quickly and was presiding when the House adjourned for the week Thursday afternoon. Williams said that he had not eaten breakfast, had low blood sugar because he is diabetic, and "knows better."

At this time, adjournment *sine die* is most likely the end of the week of May 24.

Tom Humphrey with the *Knoxville News Sentinel* and Andy Sher with the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* have these and other stories.

<http://blogs.knoxnews.com/humphrey/>

<http://timesfreepress.com/staff/andy-sher/>

Finally, we hope to be back in our office space Monday. Thank you again for your support and understanding the last two weeks.

J. Richard Lodge

(615) 742-6254

dlodge@bassberry.com



Erica Bell Vick

(615) 742-7901

evick@bassberry.com

150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800 • Nashville, TN 37201 • (615) 742-6200

The Tower at Peabody Place • 100 Peabody Place, Suite 900 • Memphis, TN 38103 • (901) 543-5900

1700 Riverview Tower • 900 South Gay Street • Knoxville, TN 37902 • (865) 521-6200