

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

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**Friday, May 22, 2009**

The administration's budget amendment, based on the latest revenue estimates, has still not been presented by Governor Bredesen. [In fact, Senator Jim Kyle "tweeted" that the budget amendment will not be presented until a week from today \(Friday, May 29\).](#) Conventional wisdom is that this schedule will push adjournment of the First Session of the 106th Tennessee General Assembly to mid-June, if not later.

Committees continue to consider bills and floor calendars are heavy. Many of the bills being heard at this time of the session are contentious enough to have been pushed to the last calendars. Some examples are:

+ [A bill to increase charter school eligibility was not acted on in the House Education Committee after the House Democratic Caucus voted to oppose the bill.](#)

+ [In the House State and Local Government Committee, a bill was amended to remove all limits on contributions to gubernatorial candidates.](#)

+ [On Monday night, the Senate voted to allow hand guns in city, state and county parks.](#)

The economy in Tennessee continues to worsen. The state jobless rate in April reached 9.9%. ["The unemployment rate is the highest it's been in 25 years," according to Jim Neely, Tennessee commissioner for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.](#) The increase in the unemployment rate from April 2008 is almost two-thirds (from 6% to 9.9%). [Consistent with the economic downturn, legislation is being proposed to attempt to provide automobile dealers with greater protection in bankruptcy cases filed by automobile manufacturers.](#)

Two personnel issues may be of interest. [The Tennessee Ethics commissioner fired the commission's executive director.](#) Bruce Androphy was the only executive director the commission has had. He was hired in just after the creation of the Tennessee Ethics Commission in February 2006. [Robin Smith, chair of the Tennessee Republican Party announced that she would resign May 30 to run for the congressional seat to be vacated by Cong. Zack Wamp, who is running for the Republican nomination for governor.](#) The district includes Chattanooga and Oak Ridge.

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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- Monday, May 18, 2009, 3:56 p.m. **SB 976, allowing handgun permit holders to carry in parks, passes Senate.**

- Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 12:54 p.m. **Senate Tax Subcommittee holds technical corrections and omnibus budget bills for future amendments.**

## 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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