

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Tennessee Government Update – Ethics Commission Thursday, September 21, 2006

On October 1, 2006, the Tennessee Ethics Commission statute becomes fully effective.

Of immediate importance is the requirement for both lobbyists and employers of lobbyists to register anew within seven days after lobbying activity is undertaken. This will mean, at a minimum, that any lobbying activity undertaken on or after October 1, 2006, will necessitate a new registration filing by those of us who lobby for you and by you as our employer. The cost, by newly published emergency regulation of the Tennessee Ethics Commission, will be \$150 for each lobbyist and \$150 for each employer for each lobbyist. Put another way, the cost will be \$300 for each lobbyist engaged in Tennessee. The fee is an annual fee, and the registration is effective from October 1 to September 30 of the next year.

The forms required for the registration are not available from the Ethics Commission yet. In addition, the law requires that we send each of our employers an ethics manual to be authored by the Ethics Commission. We will send each form along as soon as each is available.

We are in discussions with the Ethics Commission staff about the timing of registration for clients who engage our services for legislative work only. Our reading of the statute is that the registration requirement does not occur until we engage in lobbying activities on behalf of a client, rather than automatically on October 1. The Ethics Commission is studying the issue.

We will provide additional information as it becomes available.



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