

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, May 15, 2009

Many of the standing committees of the Tennessee General Assembly have closed, subject to the call of the chair. The Finance Committees, Judiciary Committees and Commerce Committees still have regular calendars for meetings next week. After next week's business is concluded, it is widely anticipated that only the Finance Committees will continue to meet regularly and most other committees will be closed subject only to the call of the chair. It is also anticipated that Governor Bredesen's new budget proposal will be transmitted to legislative leadership next week.

One thorny issue may be in the process of being resolved. A compromise bill on judicial selection passed the Senate Judiciary Committee this week by a vote of 5-3. <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090514/NEWS0201/905140352/Judicial+selection+compromise+advances> The sponsor of the bill, Senator Mark Norris (R-Collierville) envisions the bill as creating an interim procedure until a constitutional convention can address the issue.

The Legislature, of course, continues to discuss a wide range of topics and, at least temporarily, has made the decision not to allow handgun permit holders to bring their weapons into the Legislative Plaza and Capitol. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/may/12/legislators-discuss-guns-in-capitol/>

On the stimulus front, the governor announced a \$62.5 million solar energy project funded by federal money for research in and production of solar energy. <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/governor/viewArticleContent.do?id=1374&page=0> Two projects are envisioned. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/may/14/solar-initiative/> One will be a new solar institute at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, to be operated by the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The second will be for construction and operation of a five megawatt, twenty acre solar farm in Haywood County in rural West Tennessee.

<http://twitter.com/TNGovNow>

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- Monday, May 11, 2009, 3:27 p.m. **SJR127 re: constitutional amendment to address abortion has first reading in the House of Representatives on May 9th**
- Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 1:56 p.m. **Omnibus amendment and summary available at: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/senate/members/s28.html>**
- Thursday, May 14, 2009, around 9 a.m. **SJR127 re: constitutional amendment to address abortion has second reading in the House of Representatives**

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.

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*****Tweets** are the quick, frequent messages sent to you by our Government Advocacy Team.



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