



# The Weekly Update

**Tennessee General Assembly**  
*House of Representatives*

**Rep. Gary Moore**

House District 50

[rep.gary.moore@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:rep.gary.moore@capitol.tn.gov)

[www.moorefortn.net](http://www.moorefortn.net)

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35 Legislative Plaza ■ Nashville TN 37243 ■ 615.741.4317

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During the joint session of the Tennessee House and Senate on Monday, **Governor Phil Bredesen** delivered his draft of the state's budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, including budget projections for the next four years.

The Governor has shown a commitment to being fiscally responsible and this budget looks to be in line with that commitment. What we have to do now, as legislators, is make sure we're spending the resources we have wisely and not causing ourselves greater harm by cutting in the wrong places.

During his speech, Governor Bredesen advised the joint legislature of the two separate pools of money being provided by the American Recovery and Revitalization Act enacted by Congress.

Under the federal economic recovery package about \$2.9 billion, or 58 percent, will be directly invested in Tennessee and is designated primarily to "alleviate suffering and stimulate the economy." These funds have been earmarked by the Congress (i.e. \$318 million for unemployment insurance, \$573 million for road and bridge infrastructure projects) and cannot be utilized to fix any budget shortfalls in the current or upcoming years.

Of the remaining \$2.1 billion, over half is designated as funds for supporting the Tennessee Medicare program, known as TennCare. The other portion, nearly a billion as well, comes from the direct appropriation to Tennessee of fiscal stabilization funds. These dollars will be spent primarily in support of education.

The decisions we make today will have a magnified impact on what we can and cannot do tomorrow. If the economy rebounds, then we may be able to salvage many of the programs and resources Tennesseans have come to expect out of their government, but we must prepare for both the good and the bad.

The House of Representatives has begun budget hearings to analyze each part of the governor's budget. To learn more about times and locations of these budget hearings, or to watch them online, visit [www.capitol.tn.gov](http://www.capitol.tn.gov) and click on *Schedules and Calendars*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

**Weekly updates are for informational purposes only.**