



The Weekly Update

Tennessee General Assembly
House of Representatives

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HOUSE BEGINS DELIBERATION OF GOVERNOR BREDESEN'S 2009-2010 BUDGET

Over \$750 million in budget cuts proposed due to recent economic slowdown

On Monday, members of the Tennessee House of Representatives were presented with Governor Phil Bredesen's 2009-2010 budget proposal that included over \$750 million in proposed cuts. In his presentation, the Governor noted this budget is presented in an economic environment more difficult than any we have been through since the Great Depression.

Tennessee has been and continues to be a state that passes a balanced budget year after year. This year we are looking at shortfall projections of over one billion dollars and that means some difficult choices have to be made in order to balance the books. The legislature will be closely scrutinizing the Governor's proposed budget over the next few weeks.

Included in the \$750 million in budget cuts were the elimination of over 600 hundred currently vacant positions across the state as well as proposed layoffs of 717 current state employees.

Many believe those layoffs could potentially be avoided through the use of additional "Rainy Day" funds that the state has tucked away for financial times like those currently being felt in Tennessee. Nearly \$400 million in "Rainy Day" funds are already proposed for use in order to help close the nearly \$1.2 billion shortfall the state already faces. The 'Rainy Day' fund has been building each year so that we could be prepared for these tough times, and I think it's safe to say that the rain has come.

Some (not all) of the proposed layoffs of current state employees include the following departments / numbers:

Court System	8
District Atty. Gen. Conference	8
Commission on Aging	14
Finance & Administration	18
Board of Probation & Parole	8
Agriculture	3
Environment & Conservation	23
Correction	2
Economic & Community Dev.	14
Education	2
Commerce & Insurance	5
Labor & Workforce Dev.	2
Mental Health	205
Military	1
Health	3
Mental Retardation	94
Revenue	3
Children's Services	51

Over the next few weeks, legislators on both sides of the aisle will hold deliberations with the governor's office to create a final budget that is expected to be passed sometime in June.

GM Protection Bill Passes Unanimously In House and Senate

On Tuesday, the Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate unanimously passed a bill that would help protect Tennessee consumers and local car dealers in the event of the General Motors bankruptcy.

Consumers must be able to trust that their car purchases come with standard guarantees if they are going to continue buying. This legislation not only helps give consumers piece of mind when buying an automobile, but also the local dealers can feel better knowing that the service and support they provide will also be protected.

Under House Bill 1751, specific funds would be protected for the benefit of consumers and local dealers. This legislation ensures outstanding obligations owed are fulfilled in the event of a manufacturer bankruptcy. The bill passed 97-0 in the House, 33-0 in the Senate and now goes to Governor Bredesen for his signature.

Please let me know if I may assist you in any way.



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