



SPEAK OUT!
Legislative Issues Affecting
Oak Ridge and our
Business Community



June 1, 2010

Senate Burns Midnight Oil Advancing Budget Proposal / Deadlock with House Remains, Delaying Adjournment

After negotiations on a budget compromise broke down last week, the State Senate worked until midnight on night to advance its budget proposal in Senate Finance. Only a few items are still of disagreement between the House and Senate plan. One such item is a dispute involving a fish hatchery. The House budget plan calls for using \$16.1 million of an anticipated \$341 million in extra federal funding, if it becomes available, for building a fish hatchery in Carter County, home of House Speaker Kent Williams.

Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey said that provision in the "contingency" spending plan is opposed by members of the Senate Republican caucus. Ramsey also said Senate Republicans also are "locked down" against other "pork barrel" spending in the House plan, such as a \$5 million appropriation to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. There is room for negotiation on other differences between the House and Senate, such as a House-backed \$500 payment to state employees and teachers, he said.

A recent Comptroller audit found the board appointed solely by the executive branch had made significant errors and recommended changes to the board that will ensure it operated in the most efficient and fair manner to taxpayers and those disputing UI claims. The state Department of Labor introduced legislation this session that will correct these errors. The current board composition is appointed solely by the executive branch, but pending legislation will bring operations of the board under the administrative and legal department of the Department of Labor.

TNInvestco Legislation Passes Senate

This week the State Senate on a vote of [25-7](#) approved legislation to expand the existing TN INVESTCO legislation. Included in the legislation are substantial provisions about

disclosure and public information, which critics said were needed. [HB 2927](#), is sponsored by Sen. Doug Overbey (R-Maryville) and Rep. Charles Sargent (R-Franklin). The bill will expand the current TNInvestco program to additional firms providing much needed capital funding to Tennessee based businesses. To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

Legislative Activity for Week of June 1, 2010

SENATE ACTIVITY

FLOOR SESSION

Wednesday, June 2, 2010 – 2:00 PM

HOUSE ACTIVITY

FLOOR SESSION

Wednesday, June 2, 2010 – TBD

(Check this site for [official Calendar](#), when available)

Committee calendars were not available at the time of publication. We encourage you to visit www.capitol.tn.us to view Senate and House calendars as well as streaming video as committees are hearing bills with limited notice.

For further information, please contact: [Deb Woolley](#), [Robert Gaskill](#), [Bradley Jackson](#), or [Wayne Scharber](#)

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