Legislature Ends Budget Session After Receiving New $92 Million Reduction in Revenue Estimates

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mike Hall (R-Putnam) yesterday summed up just where the Legislature finds itself on the 2016-17 state budget, "It's not possible to complete this budget in any reasonable time frame." Hall's comments came shortly after new revenue estimates from the Tomblin Administration projected an additional budget shortfall of $92.4 million. With the new estimate, legislators must now find a way to balance a budget with an estimated revenue deficit of $238.8 million. House Speaker Tim Armstead (R-Kanawha) commented, "We're going to sit down with the governor and the Senate and bring all the ideas to the table." Currently, the House budget includes no new taxes and relies on withdrawals from the Rainy Day Fund. The Senate budget, on the other hand, includes a $1.00 increase in the state's tobacco tax. The governor has said he will veto any budget bill that includes Rainy Day funds. The governor is expected to call a special session to deal with the budget later in the spring.

Early-Bird Registration Ends Friday

Nationally Recognized Speaker Jack Bowman Addresses "Conquering Stress - It Isn't Rocket Science"

WV Unemployment Rate Inches Upward in February

The number of West Virginians who joined the unemployment roles in February rose by 1,300 to 50,800. Percentage-wise, the Mountain State rate increased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.5 percent. The nation unemployment rate currently stands at 4.9 percent.
Leadership WV Announces 25th Year Session Schedule

March 24-25
Charleston Welcome Session

April 21-22
Eastern Panhandle Economic Development & Education

May 12-13
Logan Coal

June 16-17
New River Gorge Tourism

July 14-15
Morgantown Justice System

September 15-16
Wheeling Marcellus Shale & Critical Issues

October 27-28
White Sulphur Springs

The Chamber has applied for credits for the HR Conference including HRCI, PDC & MCLE

Early-Bird Registration is available until Friday, March 18
REGISTER HERE
Spilman Offers Right-to-Work Webinar

How will the newly enacted right-to-work law affect West Virginia employers? In this webinar, Spilman Members Kevin Carr and Eric Kinder will explain exactly what it does and does not do, and how you may be affected. They will also address other key legislation adopted this year and how it will affect your business. To register, click here.

WVMA Conference
Marcellus & Manufacturing Development
March 23-24
Charleston Civic Center
No cost to attend the conference, but registration is required.
REGISTER HERE

Upcoming Events

REGISTER HERE
WV Chamber 2016 HR Conference
Charleston Marriott Town Center
April 19-20

REGISTER HERE
WV Chamber 2016 Environment & Energy Conference
Charleston Marriott Town Center
May 24, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Save the Date
WV Chamber Washington DC Fly-In
June 14 & 15

Save the Date
80th WV Chamber Annual Meeting & Business Summit
The Greenbrier
August 31 - September 2, 2016