

Special Report

from
State Representative

Phillip Pinion

Weekly Newsletter from Capitol Hill in Nashville
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HOUSE SESSION REACHES RECORD NUMBERS

Cable Broadcast Available to Over 1 Million Households

As of this week, the latest Open Government initiative of the Tennessee House of Representatives has reached record numbers. Over one million households across the state of Tennessee are now able to view cable broadcasts of House sessions. Additionally, anyone with Internet access can view live sessions and committee hearings as well as archived meetings.

The House has over the past four years established the goal of making the daily sessions of the Tennessee General Assembly as open and accessible as possible to citizens across the state. As announced earlier this year, cable broadcast of our session meetings is the latest phase of that goal.

It is a House goal to make our sessions and budget hearings as citizen-friendly as possible. From anywhere across the state, you can watch us live from your computer. If you cannot come to Nashville to watch in person, you can do so from the comforts of your own home. And if you do not have access to the Internet, you now have the option of watching on cable.

And because we understand many Tennesseans have busy schedules and will not be able to watch live, we will also be storing the meetings in the archives for a short while each week so you can watch them at your convenience.

In 1999, the House began testing monitors in the foyer outside the House Chamber. By the 2001-02 Session, the whole of Session was viewable in the foyer. To increase the audience, the pilot was expanded in 2002 to streaming internet users across the state, including some editorial boards.

At the onset of the 104th General Assembly, the Democratic Caucus was pleased to unveil the latest stage of our broadcasting program. From the opening gavel, all floor sessions will be able to be seen live through the

legislature's web site, archived through the web site or on delayed transmission through cable television.

This is the latest phase of our open government agenda. My colleagues and I want to ensure that Tennesseans from Bristol to Memphis have the opportunity to participate in the daily activities of state government. Following is the schedule of locations and times where and when the broadcasts will be shown.

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Time Warner (Memphis Area)	Mon./Tues./Wed. Starting at 5 p.m.	TV 6
Comcast (Knoxville Area)	TBA	Community TV 10
Comcast (Oak Ridge Area)	TBA	12
Comcast (Middle TN & Nashville)	Tues./Thurs./Fri. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	49
STC Holding (College Grove, Eaglesville, Nolensville)	Mon./Tues. 9 p.m.	3 - WAXO
Charter (Clarksville)	Friday Starting at 2 p.m.	10
Charter (Central TN)	Friday Starting at 2 p.m.	97
Charter (West TN & Jackson Area)	Friday Starting at 2 p.m.	19
Adelphia Communications (Greeneville)	TBA	73
Comcast (Chattanooga Area)	Sunday Noon - 6 p.m.	3
Comcast (Johnson City/Gray)	TBA	14