



# Jim Hackworth

## Reports

NEWS FROM YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FALL 2003

## HOUSE PASSES AGGRESSIVE AGENDA

### Balanced Budget with No New Taxes and Statewide Lottery Enacted

The Tennessee House of Representatives had a challenging but good year, taking into account the situation we faced when we first arrived.

In January, we set as our goal to do our business, balance the budget with no new taxes and go home. We did just that.

The citizens of Tennessee spoke loudly in the last election. They wanted a state lottery and a budget with no new taxes. Your legislators heard this plea and achieved the public mandate.

In these difficult fiscal times, the House stressed support of a conservative and fair budget with no new taxes. We have sought to live within our means while still presenting legislation to address important policy issues.

In addition to these items, the House also set forth policy areas with specific legislation

to address issues affecting the people of Tennessee.

Believing Tennesseans want the state to be efficient & accountable, healthy & safe and educated & competitive, we developed an aggressive set of initiatives which were accomplished over the course of the session.

Working with Governor Bredesen, the General Assembly has taken steps toward getting Tennessee headed

back in the right direction. These are only the first of many steps, however.

Next year, upon our return in January, we must continue to work with the Governor in tightening our fiscal belt. If the economy does not turn around, it is probable we will face another difficult year. We must continue to live within our means while still providing necessary services to the citizens of Tennessee. ▪

#### Accomplishments of the 2003 session of the General Assembly:

- ✓ Balanced the budget with no new taxes
- ✓ Protected our investment in education by fully funding the BEP
- ✓ Began to address the Teacher Equity Lawsuit with a \$27 million down payment
- ✓ Passed the Lottery Implementation and Lottery Scholarship bills
- ✓ Gave the Governor the tools he needs to get TennCare back on the right track
- ✓ Implemented a Preferred Drug List
- ✓ Passed the Streamlined Sales Tax Bill
- ✓ Passed Government Accountability Legislation
- ✓ Fully funded Homeland Security measures

# 2003 Legislative Accomplishments

## Accountable Government

This session, the House passed a **Balanced Budget with No New Taxes** along with three key government accountability measures:

**Toughened Campaign Disclosure** by creating an internet-based electronic filing process;

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures** requiring all legislative and executive branch officials disclose consulting contracts with persons or businesses currently doing business with the State of Tennessee; and,

**Increased Oversight** by requiring the Fiscal Review Committee to review sole-source contracts.



## Homeland Security Measures

In addition to fully funding the Governor's recommendation for Homeland Security, the House also passed legislation that provides more protection at home and legislation to provide relief to troops serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Nursing Home Accountability

The General Assembly joined with the AARP and passed the Nursing Home Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Enforcement Reform Act. This Act placed more reporting requirements in the law regarding nursing home inspection and enforcement activities. It requires the reports to be placed promptly on the Internet so it is immediately available to the public. Additional authority was also given to place Nursing Homes on probation and to impose increased penalties for violations.

## Tools to Stabilize TennCare

The key component of the TennCare legislation this year was the **Preferred Drug List** (HB 1650) which I was pleased to co-sponsor. Formulating this bill, we joined with Governor Bredesen in implementing a Preferred Drug List, which will in effect provide a mechanism for the state to save literally millions of dollars on TennCare and other prescription drug purchases. Savings have been estimated to go up to \$150 million, state and federal dollars, on an annualized basis once it is fully implemented.

The goal of this legislation is to offer direction to the administration in negotiations concerning state purchase of prescription drugs and ultimately to aid in lowering prescription drug costs to the state.

*"Getting the state's financial house back in order is my top priority in Nashville. If we fail to restore a stable and responsible state budget, it will threaten the progress Anderson County has achieved over the last 20 years in education and economic development."*



## Hackworth Legislation Helps Anderson County

This session, I was pleased to co-sponsor several pieces of legislation that I campaigned on and that will directly help Anderson County and its citizens. Among them are:

**Utility Relocation Bill** which will save Anderson County a projected \$3.6 million, not only covering the cost of the West End road project in Oak Ridge but also picking up the utility relocation costs for any future state highway projects in Anderson County;

**Reappraisal Bill** which will save Oak Ridge around \$10,000 per year and enable Oak Ridge, Anderson and Roane Counties to strengthen negotiations for DOE in lieu of tax payments;

**Windmill Bill** which adds approximately \$225,000 in new revenue for Anderson County and will help offset the need for future county tax increases;

**Vocational Home Building Bill** which reinstated the teaching tool and allows the sale of a home to provide money for the purchasing of material to build the next home; and,

**Economic Development Study Bill** which will encourage more economic development in all areas of Tennessee, including Anderson County, with meetings planned across the state to gather information and ideas to make Tennessee more competitive.

*“As a 5th generation Anderson Countian, I am committed to our community. I believe the best way to represent you in Nashville is to listen to your opinions and make the hard decisions you ask me to make. My door is always open, and I appreciate hearing from you on the issues you care about. Together, we can make sure Anderson County continues to prosper.”*



## Lottery Legislation Approved

Both Bills dealing with the Lottery received a full, fair and open debate, and as we look at the final vote each received overwhelming bipartisan support. Aside from the annual budget, the largest issue involving education during this session of the legislature was the Lottery Implementation legislation. As we developed our lottery, we were carefully reviewing the Georgia model. The referendum to create a state lottery program was overwhelmingly approved by voters last November, and it was our responsibility to give Tennesseans the

best lottery possible.

The House approved the legislation creating the mechanism for a statewide lottery and the manner to distribute it each by over a two-to-one margin. The implementation Bill passed by a margin of 73 to 24 and the scholarship bill passed by a margin of 77 to 20.

The House stood firm in our commitment to spend the lottery proceeds fully on Tennessee's students. Our goal has been to reinvest the lottery money in as many of our students as possible. To this end, the House supported yearly awards

to Tennessee's students seeking an education at Tennessee institutions. Whether public or private, two-year or four-year institutions, every "eligible" Tennessean may receive some benefit from this scholarship.

Signed into law by the Governor on June 11, it is our intention that a lottery program be operational by the beginning of next year. Hopefully, tickets will be available shortly after the New Year, and scholarships will be awarded the following fall.

1-800 Government Numbers

Abuse Hot Line	877 287.0010	Labor	800 475.1352
A.I.D.S. Hot Line	800 525.2437	Land Lords / Tenants	800 342.8385
Adult & Community Ed	800 531.1515	Lemon Law	800 342.8385
Agriculture Market News	800 342.8206	Motor Pool	800 447.2277
Arson Hot Line	800 762.3017	OSHA Hot Line	800 325.9901
Breast & Cervical Cancer	877 969.6636	Parks Reservation	800 421.6683
<i>Early Detection Program</i>		Policy Holding Service	800 342.4029
Cancer Registry	800 547.3558	Professional Privilege Tax	800 342.1003
Child Support Payments	800 838 6911	Public Service Commission	800 342.8359
Contractors	800 544.7693	<i>Consumer Complaints</i>	
Child Care Resource	800 462 8261	Radon Hot Line	800.232.1483
Consumer Affairs	800 342.8385	Real Estate Commission	800.342.4031
Immunization	800 342.1813	Revenue	800 342.1003
Day Care Hot Line	800 362.8004	Road Construction	800 858.6349
Disability Information	800 342.1117	Social Security	800 772.1213
Employment Security	800 344.8337	Solid Waste Management	800 237.7018
Fair Housing	800 325.9664	Student Loans	800 447.1523
Families Assistance <i>Help Line</i>	888 863.6178	Student Loan Consolidation	800 557.7392
FamiliesFirst	888 863.6178	Superfund	800 251.3479
Food Stamps Hot Line	800 342.1784	Tax Fraud	800 372.8389
Governor's News Line	800.342.1483	Tax Payers Services	800 342.1003
Health Care Facilities	888 310.4650	Teen Pregnancy	800 521.8336
Health Club Information	800 342.8385	TeleMarketing <i>Do Not Call</i>	877 872.7030
Home Health Hotline	800 541.7367	TCRS <i>Tennessee Consolidated Retirement</i>	800 770.8277
Immunization	800 342.1813	Titles and Registrations	800 634.1247
Insurance Assistance	800 342.4029	Unemployment Insurance	800 344.8337
MediCare	800 342.8900	W-2 & 1099 Forms	800 829 1040
Food Stamp EBT Cards	888 997.9444	WIC Hotline	800 342.5942
Military Recruiting	800 464.8273	Workmen's Compensation	800 332.2667
TennCare Hotline: <i>To change your address, find out about eligibility or to change plans.</i>			800 669.1851
TennCare Solutions: <i>To file an appeal about problems getting medical care under TennCare</i>			800 878.3192
or TennCare Partners. <i>This includes getting drugs.</i>			
TennCare Consumer Advocacy: <i>For problems getting care for urgent medical needs.</i>			800 722.7474
TennCare Partners Advocacy Line: <i>Mental health and substance abuse services.</i>			800 758.1638
TTY-TDD Telephone Line: <i>For people with hearing impairment machine.</i>			800 772.7647

**COMMITTEES:**  
**Consumer & Employee Affairs**  
 Secretary  
**Commerce**  
 Member  
**Consumer Affairs**  
 Chariman  
**Employee Affairs**  
 Member  
**Small Business**  
 Member

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**“We had a very good year. We passed a balanced budget with no new taxes, enacted the lottery, fully-funded K-12 education and provided Gov. Bredesen the tools to fix TennCare. And we did it all with no new taxes!”**

**State Rep. Jim Hackworth**  
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