

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, SMALL BUSINESS, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

October 23, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology was held on October 23, 2025, at 1:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kim King, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Kim King, Co-Chair; Senator Phillip Wheeler, Co-Chair; Representative Deanna Gordon, Co-Chair; Senators Gary Boswell, Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Matt Nunn, and Reginald L. Thomas; and Representatives Shane Baker, Beverly Chester-Burton, Ryan Dotson, Daniel Fister, Chris Fugate, Daniel Grossberg, Vanessa Grossl, Nima Kulkarni, Matthew Lehman, Chris Lewis, Mary Lou Marzian, Shawn McPherson, Adam Moore, Michael Sarge Pollock, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Nancy Tate, Timmy Truett, Joshua Watkins, Bill Wesley, Mitch Whitaker, Richard White, Nick Wilson, and Susan Witten.

Guests: Charla Reed, Executive Director, Visit Jessamine; Brian Young, Owner & Operator, 1922 House Vineyards & Winery, LLC; and Colonel (Ret.) Lance O'Bryan, President & CEO, Knox Regional Development Alliance.

LRC Staff: Janine Coy, Christian Deeter, Austin Johnson, and Robert Wright.

Approval of September Minutes

A motion was made by Representative Pollock and seconded by Representative Marzian to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Visit Jessamine - Making an Impact

Representative Adam Moore, House District 45; Charla Reed, Executive Director, Visit Jessamine; and Brian Young, Owner & Operator, 1922 House Vineyards & Winery, LLC, discussed Jessamine County tourism. Ms. Reed detailed statistics related to 2024 Kentucky and Jessamine County tourism, including economic impact. She explained the process of rebranding Jessamine County as a premier Kentucky destination and tourist attractions in Jessamine County. The old jail in Nicholasville, a Jessamine County historical landmark, was

renovated into a visitor center for Visit Jessamine. Ms. Reed further detailed examples of tourism investments in Jessamine County. Jessamine County has the first commercial winery in the United States. Jessamine County tourism has established the "Kentucky Wine Trail" and created a commercial campaign advertising Jessamine County wineries. She further detailed the Jessamine County Wine and Spirits Trail and provided literature and advertising relating to the Jessamine County Wine and Spirits Trail. Mr. Young outlined how tourism dollars impact Jessamine County and surrounding areas. Jessamine County wineries bring local, regional, and international visitors to Jessamine county and surrounding communities.

Senator Boswell acknowledged the importance of tourism and sales tax dollars to Kentucky's economy.

In response to Senator Thomas, Ms. Reed detailed Jessamine County Halloween annual traditions that Visit Jessamine coordinates.

Fort Knox Update & Impact

Representative Nancy Tate, House District 27 and Colonel (Ret.) Lance O'Bryan, President & CEO, Knox Regional Development Alliance, provided an update on Fort Knox and its impact on the communities of Bullitt, Hardin and Meade counties. Mr. O'Bryan read a prepared statement written by Fort Knox Deputy Garrison Commander Jim Bradford, discussing Fort Knox's status as a driver of economic strength, community partnerships, and workforce development across the Commonwealth. Mr. O'Bryan detailed the history of Ft. Knox and its tourism impact on the surrounding area and the state. He discussed statistics related to Fort Knox tourism. Ft. Knox brings 35,000 to Kentucky from May to November for summer cadet training. He outlined his professional experience at Fort Knox.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Mr. O'Bryan confirmed Fort Knox has discontinued its World War II reenactments.

In response to Senator Thomas, Mr. O'Bryan discussed the impact of the government shutdown on Fort Knox military and non-military personnel.

In response to Representative Tate, Mr. O'Bryan discussed the recent installation of the digital air-ground integration range at Fort Knox.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 01:53 PM.