

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

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 17, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology was held on September 17, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET/ 12:00 PM CT in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Deanna Gordon, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Deanna Gordon, Co-Chair; Senator Phillip Wheeler, Co-Chair; Representatives Kim King, Co-Chair; Senators Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Matt Nunn, and Mike Wilson; and Representatives Shane Baker, Ryan Dotson, Daniel Fister, Chris Fugate, Daniel Grossberg, Nima Kulkarni, Chris Lewis, Mary Lou Marzian, Shawn McPherson, Adam Moore, Ashley Tackett Laferty, Aaron Thompson, Joshua Watkins, Bill Wesley, Mitch Whitaker, Richard White, Nick Wilson, and Susan Witten.

Guests: Amy Scarborough, VP Public Affairs, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU); Dr. Tom Martin, Dean College of Business, EKU; Dr. James Kirby Easterling, Program Director, Global Supply Chain Management, EKU; Keely Coleman Rice, Strategic Account Supply Chain Planner, Valvoline Global Operations; Rob Duncan, Deputy Attorney General, Office of Attorney General (OAG); and Chris Lewis, Division Chief, Consumer and Senior Protection, OAG.

LRC Staff: Peter Wright, Janine Coy, Christian Deeter, and Samantha Gerhart.

Approval of August 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Madon and seconded by Representative Kulkarni, to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

EKU Global Supply Chain Management

Amy Scarborough, VP Public Affairs, EKU; Dr. Tom Martin, Dean College of Business, EKU; Dr. James Kirby Easterling, Program Director, Global Supply Chain Management, EKU, and Keely Coleman Rice, Strategic Account Supply Chain Planner, Valvoline Global

Operations, discussed ECU's Supply Chain program and the success graduates have had in their careers.

In response to Representative Dotson, Dr. Easterling explained how supply chains focus on reducing expenses and increasing revenue.

In response to Co-Chair Wheeler, Dr. Easterling stated that reshoring businesses from overseas has eased challenges in the supply chain.

In response to Representative Grossberg, Dr. Easterling discussed how the supply chain program is heavily engaged with ECU's ROTC program.

In response to Representative Watkins, Dr. Easterling explained he teaches AI is not a threat and is a tool for which students should be proactive instead of reactive.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Dr. Easterling stated that he allows his network to become his students' network. Dr. Martin explained the retention rate out of the College of Business is 65%.

Meta Settlement Update from the Office of the Attorney General

Rob Duncan, Deputy Attorney General, OAG, and Chris Lewis, Division Chief, Consumer and Senior Protection, OAG, explained what Kentucky has received in the settlement with Meta and what changes will be made on the platforms to protect our youth.

In response to Representative Grossberg, Mr. Lewis explained that the focus on the non-algorithmic feed would help protect adolescents from seeing harmful content.

In response to Representative Moore, Mr. Lewis discussed the settlement provision that includes a threshold for nationwide participation, and that a platform would be included if it met that threshold or if statutory language included the platform.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Mr. Lewis explained that part of this injunction intends to provide parents and guardians with new tools linked to the child's account, and those protections will come as a default setting.

In response to Representative Watkins, Mr. Lewis discussed increasing the limit on penalties and how they are addressing a cultural, profit-based issue with some companies.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.