

# **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 and Operator, 1922 House Vineyards and Winery, LLC; and Colonel (Ret.) Lance O'Bryan, President and 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 Moore; Charla Reed, Executive Director, Visit Jessamine; and Brian Young, Owner and Operator, 1922 House Vineyards and Winery, LLC, discussed Jessamine County tourism. Ms. Reed detailed statistics related to Jessamine County tourism; explained the process of rebranding Jessamine County as a premier Kentucky destination and tourist attraction; and highlighted the Jessamine County Wine and Spirits Trail. Mr. Young outlined how tourism dollars impact Jessamine County and surrounding areas.

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's annual Halloween traditions that are coordinated by Visit Jessamine.

### **Fort Knox Update and Impact**

Representative Tate and Colonel (Ret.) Lance O'Bryan, President and CEO, Knox Regional Development Alliance, provided an update on Fort Knox and its impact on the communities of Bullitt, Hardin, and Meade counties. Colonel (Ret.) 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. Colonel (Ret.) O'Bryan detailed the history of Ft. Knox and its tourism impact on the surrounding area and the state. 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 Co-Chair Wheeler, Colonel (Ret.) O'Bryan confirmed Fort Knox has discontinued its World War II reenactments.

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

In response to Representative Tate, Colonel (Ret.) 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 1:53 PM.