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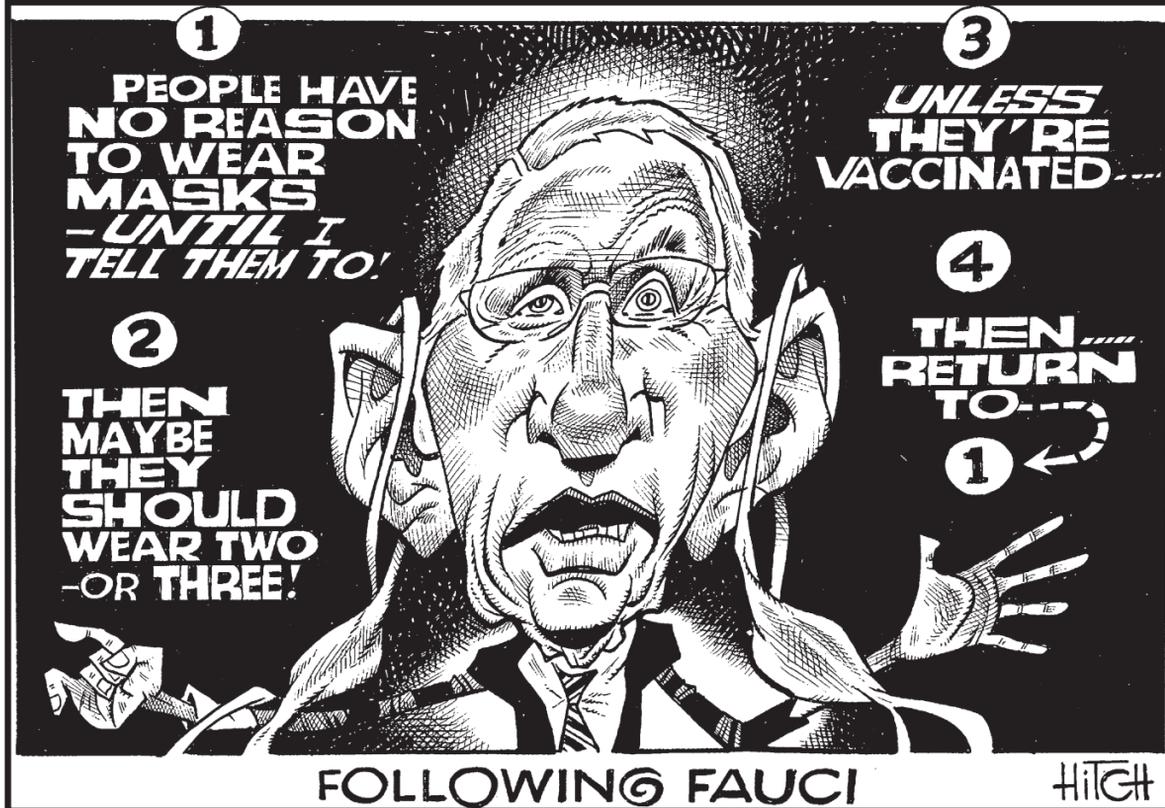
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FOLLOWING FAUCI

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** from Representative Bill Wesley

**Committees Prepare for the 2022 Regular Session**

It is hard to believe that we convene for the 2022 Regular Session in a little over 150 days. Interim committees met this week for their monthly meetings, bringing together members of the House and Senate to receive an update from state government officials and members of the public concerning the issues that we will examine next session. Among the topics were workforce development issues, supply shortages, charitable gaming accessibility, and post-secondary education planning.

**IJC on Economic Development and Workforce Investment:** Committee members discussed the uphill battle in several areas of business having a trickle-down effect on the manufacturing of goods. One of the issue areas is the current national semiconductor computer chip shortage. The market for these chips has grown nearly 25 percent beyond the planned capacity, rendering manufacturers unable to complete products. In addition to supply shortages, we are seeing many transportation professionals reluctant to get back on the road due to gas prices, equipment shortages, and failing domestic infrastructure. All of these problems have culminated into a potential work hesitancy crisis effecting everything from manufacturers to restaurants and retail.

**IJC on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology:** Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology received a brief overview of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. According to officials, fishing and hunting license sales alone fund 48 percent of the department's budget. Before the pandemic, Fish and Wildlife contributed \$5.9 billion to the state's economy. The Commonwealth has a 13 percent participation rate for fishing licenses and an 8 percent participation rate for hunting licenses. This is great news since outdoor recreation like fishing and hunting not only lead to long lasting memories with family and friends, but also provide healthy food sources and draw tourists into Kentucky. The committee also heard from the Kentucky Historical Society about site markers throughout the state. Currently, we have at least one historical marker per county in the state. The Historical Society is faced with a challenge when it comes to the maintenance of the missing and damaged markers.

**IJC on Licensing, Occupation, and Administrative Regulations:** The Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations discussed the use of technology in charitable gaming. During the pandemic, an emergency regulation was passed to allow a random number generator rather than using in person volunteers. Nonprofit representatives also shared their desire to offer on-line ticket sale options.

**Unemployment Insurance Reform Task Force:** Earlier this month the executive branch administration revealed that the state was restarting the search for a contractor to overhaul the unemployment system. Shortly after, the Labor Cabinet indicated that

the state planned to award a \$40 million contract to complete the project. During the task force meeting, they shared that the administration was backing out after realizing more work needed to be done to secure the unemployment system, the same system that has been hit by multiple data breaches and significant fraud over the past year. Since the request for proposal was restarted, there have been vital infrastructure updates to help prevent any further system breaches.

**Capital Planning Advisory Board:** At this month's meeting, members were briefed on capital construction plans from nine public colleges and universities. The institutions have priorities that range from renovation of sports facilities to routine maintenance. According to the presentation, the projects are aimed at improving the quality of life for students and to promote workability and employability.

As always, I want to share a look back at the week, but I hope you will reach out to me for more information. I can be reached here at home anytime, or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Feel free to contact me via email at Bill.Wesley@lrc.ky.gov. Also, feel free to watch the committee meetings on YouTube by searching "KY LRC Committee Meetings" or on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) at ket.org/legislature. KET does not cover all committee meetings, but the YouTube channel will have the meetings that KET does not. Also, visit the legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.



**Midnight Intruder**

A man gets up in the night to go to the bathroom, and after he had been there awhile, he hears a scream of "HEL-L-LP!" coming from the bedroom. He runs to see what is the matter and just as he enters his bedroom, he sees a guy leaping out the window. His wife cries out, "That guy just assaulted me twice!"

"Twice?" the husband replies. "Why didn't you call me the first time?"

"Because," she replies. "I thought it was you until the second time..."

**Bear Hunters**

Two slickers went bear hunting. As they were going along, they came to a fork in the road, and the sign said Bear Left. So they went home.

**Insect Control**

You can tell you're in a redneck state when the state bird is the fly. And you can tell it's in the Deep South if the state bird is the gnat. Down in a mall town in Georgia, you can tell the kids with the best moms because the kid has the seat of his pants cut out and shows his rear. Keeps the gnats off his face.

**Bells on Bears**

Tourist at the hospital: "I heard that bear bells were good to have if you're hiking in polar bear country. The hard part was getting them on that bear!"

**Say, Old Timer**

A city slicker was driving around Needmore Hollow (leaf-peeping, probably) and saw an old man rocking on his front porch. "Hey, old timer, you been rocking on that porch all your life?" he calls.

The old timer slowly answers... "Not yet."

**Bearly Knighted**

There once was a kingdom ruled by a giant bear named Kosmey. The only way to become a knight in Kosmey's empire was to apply for a personal interview with the bear. This had its drawbacks. If he liked your audition, you were knighted on the spot--but if you failed, Lord Kosmey was quite likely to club your head off your shoulders with one mighty paw.

Even so, there were many applicants -- for the peasantry were poor, and if a candidate failed for knighthood, his family received, as a booby-prize, a valuable sheepdog from the Royal Kennels. This consoled them, for truly it is written, "For the mourning after a terrible knight, nothing beats the dog of the bear that hit you."

**Communicable**

A man confides to his golfing partner that he is upset because his son has contracted STD.

A worried father telephones his family doctor and said that he was afraid that his teenage son had come down with V.D.

"He says he hasn't had relations with anyone but the maid, so it has to be her."

"Don't worry so much," advised the doctor. "These things happen."

"I know, doctor," said the father, "but I have to admit that I've been sleeping with the maid also. I seem to have the same symptoms."

"That's unfortunate."

"Not only that, I think I've passed it to my wife."

"Oh," said the doc, "That means we all have it."

**The Economy**

Two of the President's financial advisors are flying on Air Force One.

One looks out a window and says, "You know, with the economy like it is, I could throw a \$1,000 bill out of the window and make somebody very happy."

The other replies, "I could throw ten \$100 bills out of the window and make ten people very happy."

Not to be outdone, the first one says, "I could throw a thousand \$1 bills out of the window and make a thousand people very happy!"

The co-pilot, who overhears their conversation, turns to the pilot and says, "If the two of them would jump out of the window, it would make 400 million people very happy."

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