



## This Week at the State Capitol - February 18-21, 2020

Hi Hillary, this is Mike

# Legislature reaches halfway point

bly's 2020 session reached its halfway point this week, much more than half of the workload of this session likely lies ahead.

than ten have reached the governor's desk to be signed. That's typical at this point in a session. It's likely that the the number of bills sent to the governor's desk could exceed 100 by the time the legislative veto recess begins in 372-7181. early April.

One of the lengthiest legislative debates so far this year was held on Thursday as members of the House considered – and ultimately approved – a bill that would legalize medical marijuana in Kentucky. Under an amendment added to the bill, qualifying conditions for the use of medical marijuana would include chronic pain, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and nausea or vomiting.

If House Bill 136 becomes law, the measure would establish policies for the cultivation, processing, sale, distribution and use of medical marijuana. Patients who qualify to receive a registry card to obtain medical marijuana would not be able to use the medicine in a form that could be smoked. They wouldn't be allowed to grow marijuana at home either. Local governments would be able to prevent dispensaries from locating in their areas, if they choose.

FRANKFORT – Although the Kentucky General Assem- solely a decision of the governor. Instead, the bill would create a Kentucky Transportation Board to be responsible for submitting a list of transportation secretary candidates from which the governor would make a selection. The gov-After seven weeks of legislative activity, hundreds of ernor's choice would have to be confirmed by the Senate. bills have moved closer to becoming law, although fewer The bill passed the Senate 25-8 on Wednesday and now goes to the House for consideration.

Well yes, Mike ... I think You would make a great vice President!

Citizens are encouraged to share their feedback with pace will progressively increase in the days ahead and that lawmakers on the issues under consideration by calling the General Assembly's toll-free message line at 1-800-



The Veterans Benefits Field Representative will be at the Estill County Public Library, 246 Main Street in Irvine, on Thursday, March 5th and normally the first Thursday of each month. The hours are 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Veterans and their dependants will receive assistance filing for Federal and State veterans benefits. This service is provided free of charge by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. To apply, veterans need to furnish copies of pertinent documentation to verify eligibility. For further information, please call toll free within Kentucky, 1-866-376-0308, to speak with a Veterans Benefits Field Representative.

### **Call Home**

A woman is in bed with her husband's best friend when the phone rings. She answers the phone while he quietly listens to one side of the conversation.

"Hello? Oh, hi. I'm so glad that you called. Really? That's wonderful. I am so happy for you. That sounds terrific. Great! Thanks. Okay. Bye bye."

She hangs up the telephone, and he asks, "Who was that?"

"Oh," she replies, "That was my husband telling me all about the wonderful time he's having on his fishing trip with you."

#### The Therapist

A noted therapist realizes that people often lie about the frequency of their romantic encounters. So he devises a test to tell for certain by looking at a person's smile.

To prove his theory, he fills up an auditorium with people, and goes down the line, asking each person to smile. Using the size of the person's smile, the therapist is able to guess accurately until he comes to the last man in line, an elderly gentleman, who is grinning from ear to ear.

"Twice a day," the therapist guesses, but is surprised when the man says no. "Once a day, then?" Again the answer is no.

"Twice a week?" "No." "Twice a month?" "No." The man finally says yes when the doctor gets to "once a year."

The therapist is angry that his theory isn't working, and asks the elderly gentleman, "Then, what the

heck are you so happy about?" The gent answers, "Tonight's the night!"

#### Helping A Little Old Lady

A little boy asks his dad for a dollar to give to a little old lady in the park. His father impressed by his son's kindness, gives him the dollar. "There you are my son," says the father. "But, tell me, isn't the little old lady able to work any more?

"Sure, she does," says the boy. "She sells candy." Wine Taster

At a wine merchant's warehouse the regular taster dies . . . and the director starts looking for a new one to hire. A retired quartermaster, drunk and with a ragged dirty look, comes in to apply for the position. The director wonders how to send him away. They give him a glass to drink.

The old quartermaster tastes it and says, "It's a Muscat three years old, grown on a north slope, matured in steel containers. Low grade but acceptable."

"That's correct," says the boss, "But, let's try another glass."

"It's a Cabernet, eight years old, south-western slope, oak barrels, matured at eight degrees. Requires three more years for finest results."

"Absolutely correct. But to be sure"

"It's a Pinot Blanc Champagne, high grade and exclusive," calmly says the old quartermaster.

The director is astonished. He nods at his secretary as to suggest something. She leaves the room and comes back in with a glass of urine.

The old quartermaster tastes it, then says, "It's a blonde, 26 years old, three months pregnant and if I don't get the job, I'll name the father."

#### **Driver's Test**

Trixie lets her driver's license expire and has to retake both the written and the road exams. The examiner tells her, since you've been driving for so long, I'm only going to give you one question to answer to pass the permit test, "How many feet does it take to stop the car if you are driving 60 miles an hour and have to slam on the brakes real hard?"

"That's easy," she smiles. "I use both of them!"

She finally passes the written test and is taking the driving portion of the exam. She handles most of the maneuvers quite well, but she has a little trouble parallel parking, and winds up a couple of feet from the curb.

"Could you get a little closer?" the examiner asks. Trixie smiles, unbuckles her seat belt, and slides over toward the examiner. "Now what?"

The bill was approved by the House on a 65-30 vote on Thursday. It now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

In other business this week, lawmakers cast votes on numerous other measures, including bills on the following topics:

Diabetes. House Bill 12 would limit patient costs for a 30-day supply of insulin to \$100. The legislation was approved by the House 92-0 on Wednesday and now goes to the Senate.

Marsy's Law. A measure to add a crime victims' "bill of rights" to the state constitution was approved by the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Wednesday. Senate Bill 15—widely known as Marsy's Law— would specify in the state constitution that crime victims have the certain rights, including the right to be notified about court proceedings, the right to reasonable protection from the accused, and the right to be heard in hearings. If approved by the full Senate and the House, the measure would be decided on by Kentucky voters this fall.

Lawmakers considered Marsy's Law legislation two years ago and approved the measure, which sent it before the states' voters in the form of a proposed amendment to the state constitution. Though a majority of Kentucky voters cast votes in favor of Marsy's Law, the Supreme Court invalidated the measure with a ruling that said the voting ballots should have provided the entire text of the proposed amendment rather than a summary of it.

Public assistance reform. House Bill 1 seeks to reform the way public assistance is provided in Kentucky, with an eye toward preventing fraud while offering assistance to people seeking to move beyond public assistance and into the workforce.

Key provisions of HB 1 would require most cash assistance beneficiaries to use a single electronic benefit transfer card for all program with penalties for misusing the card. Other provisions would provide "transitional" benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and allow implementation of a Medicaid work requirement should state matching funds required to cover Kentucky's expanded Medicaid population reach a certain level. Additionally, those with earnings between 138-200 percent of the federal poverty level who no longer qualify for Medicaid because of increased income, but who otherwise qualify for Medicaid, could participate in a state health insurance option. The program would provide the optional insurance to a qualified individual for 12 months or longer.

House Bill 1 was approved by the House 57-33 on Friday and now goes to the Senate.

Transportation secretary. Senate Bill 4 would no longer make the selection of the state transportation secretary

