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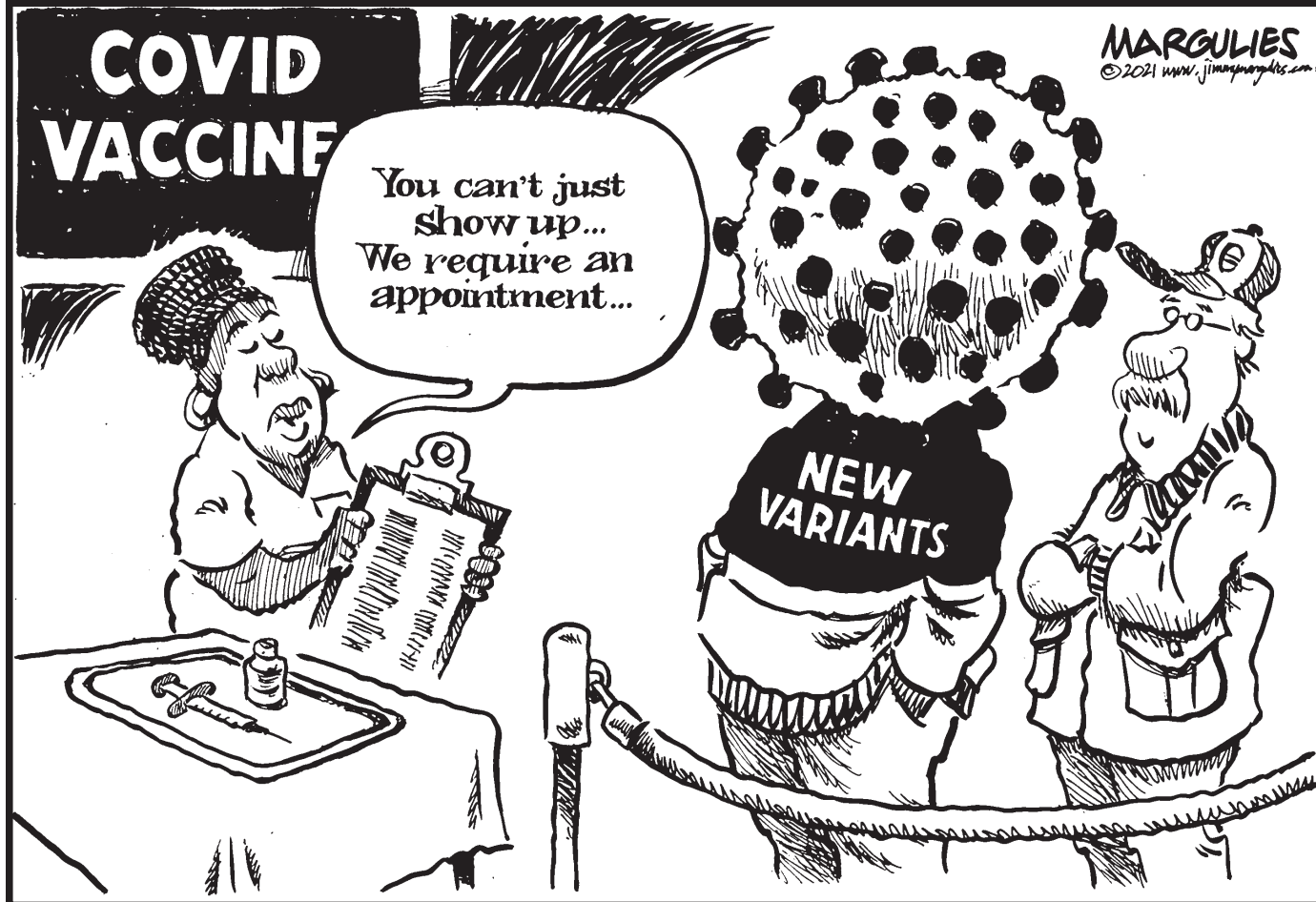
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This Week at the State Capitol - March 1-5, 2021

List of issues needing consideration still growing

FRANKFORT - The list of issues receiving consideration from state lawmakers continued growing this week as workdays lengthened and an increased number of bills advanced through the legislative process.

Bills that took steps forward in the Kentucky General Assembly this week include measures on the following topics:

**School breakfasts.** House Bill 384 would allow a school that participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program to authorize up to 15 minutes of the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast during instructional time. The measure passed the House 97-0 and has been sent to the Senate.

**Identity protection.** Senate Bill 267 would make it a crime to post another person's personally identifying information online if done to intimidate, abuse, threaten, harass, or frighten. Information that would be prohibited includes social security numbers, birthdates, home addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, credit card info, health data or the location of someone's school or workplace. The bill passed the Senate 37-0 and has been delivered to the House for further consideration.

**Schools.** House Bill 208 is aimed at making sure every public school in Kentucky reopens to in-person instruction in some capacity by March 29. Under the legislation, public schools would have to be open for in-person instruction at least four days a week for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year. Schools would have the option to operate under a hybrid model where students spend part of the week attending in-person classes and the rest from home. HB 208 would require schools to allow a student to attend in-person classes at least twice a week under the hybrid model. The final version of the bill passed both chambers this week and was delivered to the governor, who signed the measure into law.

**Child and new mother fatalities.** House Bill 212 would require data in an annual state report on fatalities among children and new mothers to include information on demographics, race, income and geography associated with the fatalities. The bill passed the House 92-3 and has been delivered to the Senate.

**Supplementary education.** Senate Bill 128 would allow high school students to retake or supplement courses that were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic during the current school year. It would also allow students utilizing supplemental school years are not ineligible to participate in Kentucky High School Athletic Association activities. Senate Bill 128 was approved 36-0 in the Senate and now goes to the House.

**Worker safety.** House Bill 475 would prohibit the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission or the secretary from adopting or enforcing any occupational safety and health administrative regulation that is more stringent than the corresponding federal provision. The bill passed the House 65-35 and now goes to the Senate.

**Liability protection.** Senate Bill 5 would provide liability protections for businesses and other organizations from pandemic-related lawsuits. It would provide liability protections for places of worship, schools, restaurants, medical facilities and more. The bill would also establish protections for businesses that provide essential services. It would not protect a business or other organization that acts in a malicious or grossly negligent way to ignore executive actions during a state of emergency. SB 5 passed the Senate 24-11 and was delivered to the House for further consideration.

**Probation and parole.** House Bill 440 would allow meetings with probation or parole officers required under the terms of a person's probation or parole to be conducted via videoconference. The bill passed the House 94-2 and has been sent to the Senate.

**State contracts.** Senate Bill 122 would prohibit a state contract from being awarded to a business if that company had been awarded the same or similar

contract within the past five years through the use of a lobbyist who was later convicted of a crime related to the contract. Senate Bill 122 passed the Senate 34-0 and now goes to the House.

**Scholarships.** House Bill 184 would allow a high school student who transfers to an out-of-state school due to a parent or guardian's military service to continue earning Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships awards if the student earned a base amount in a previous year at a Kentucky high school. The bill passed the House 95-0 on Wednesday and has been delivered to the Senate.

**Broadband.** House Bill 320 would expand broadband internet service to underserved areas with \$250 million for the broadband deployment fund. The bill would also reduce for barriers for electric cooperatives to offer the service. The legislation was approved 91-4 in the House on Wednesday and now goes to the Senate.

**Newborn protection.** House Bill 155 would allow the use of a "newborn safety device" related to the anonymous surrendering of a newborn infant at a participating staffed police station, staffed fire station, or a staffed hospital. The device would allow a parent to safely surrender an infant into a receptacle that would trigger an alarm so that medical care providers could quickly accept and provide care to the newborn. The bill passed the House 96-0 and has been sent to the Senate.

Continued -- See Legislature, Page 5

Maudie's Naughties



Dear John

A Marine stationed in Afghanistan receives a "Dear John" letter from his girlfriend back home. It reads as follows:

Dear Ricky, I can no longer continue our relationship. The distance between us is too great. I must admit that I have cheated on you twice since you've been gone, and it's not fair to either of us. I'm sorry. Please return the picture of me that I sent to you, Becky.

Ricky asks his fellow Marines for any snapshots they can spare of their girlfriends, sisters, ex-girlfriends, cousins, etc. and puts them in an envelope (57 in all) along with the picture of Becky and writes:

Dear Becky, I'm so sorry, but I can't quite remember who you are. Please take your picture from the pile, and send the rest back to me. Take care, Ricky

Top of the Tree

Junior and Howard Green are taking a community education class in town that deals with emotional extremes.

"What is the opposite of depression?" asks the professor.

"I know," says Clayton. "It's elation!"

"And what is the opposite of joy," the professor asks.

"I know that!" replies Howard. "It's sadness."

"And you sir," the professor says to Junior, "What about the opposite of woe?"

"Anybody knows that," replies Junior. "It's 'giddy up.'"

House For Sale?

A new real estate agent is driving through Needmore when she passes Ma and Pa's farmhouse with a neatly hand-lettered "For Sale" sign in front.

She knocks at the door and after briefly introducing herself to Ma and Pa, she cruises from room to room, opening closets and cupboards, testing faucets and pointing out where a "new light fixture here and a little paint there" would help. Pleased with her assertiveness, the woman is hopeful that the owner would offer her the listing.

"Ma'am," Pa says, "I appreciate the home-improvement tips and all, but I think you read my sign wrong. It says, "HORSE for sale."

What Women Want

Bubba and Emmerlene are lying in bed one night when he notices she has bought a new book entitled, "What 20 Million American Women Want."

He grabs the book out of her hands and starts thumbing through the pages.

Emmerlene becomes a little annoyed and says, "Hey, what do you think you're doing?"

Bubba replies, "I just wanted to see if they spelled my name right."

Anatomically Incorrect

Bubba came walking past the courthouse one day with Junior and Howard Green. They pass two men sitting on the bench.

"Hey," says one of the men. "Did you hear about Bubba. They say he has two butt holes."

"It that right?" says the other. "Where did you hear that?"

"It's all over town," says the first man. "Everywhere they go people will point at them and say, "There goes Bubba with those two butt holes."

Roadblock

Bubba and Cousin Earl are driving up Needmore Road one day while drinking a few beers when they see Sheriff Rocky has set up a roadblock ahead at Gum Springs.

"We're going to get busted for sure for drinking these beers," says Bubba.

"Don't worry," replies Earl. "Just do what I tell you."

They take a couple of labels off the beer bottles and stick them to their foreheads while tossing the rest of the bottles under the seat.

"You boys, been drinking?" asks Sheriff Rocky.

"No, way," says Earl, while pointing at the labels. "We're on the patch."

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