

House committee passes DEI block for college admissions

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

A bill that would prohibit public colleges and universities from giving special consideration to prospective students based on their race, sex, religion, color or national origin passed a House committee Tuesday morning, setting it bill up for a vote in the full House.

House Bill 4 was approved on a 11-4 vote by the Postsecondary Education Committee in a one-hour hearing that at least one Democrat complained was not enough time to hear from the bill's opponents in the audience.

Democrats on the committee asked numerous questions of the bill's chief sponsor, and the bill was approved on a party line vote.

House Bill 4 targets diversity, equity and inclusion, or "DEI" both at public colleges and universities and at the Council for

Postsecondary Education. The bill, if approved, would place a number of requirements on public postsecondary schools.

The bill would prohibit "differential treatment" from being used when school officials are considering admissions, scholarships and student housing assignments, and in business matters like hiring employees or awarding contracts.

The bill also would prohibit investigations into claims of bias, except in cases where federal law requires an inquiry, or where "student on student harassment" is believed to have taken place, if university attorneys think it's necessary. Harassment is also defined in the bill as something "severe, pervasive and objectively offensive" that it rises to the level of denying equal access to education.

State colleges and universities would be prohib-

ited from spending funds on a diversity, equality and inclusion office, staff or training. Students would not be required to take any course "of which the primary purpose is to indoctrinate participants with a discriminatory concept.

The bill defines "indoctrinate" as a "means to imbue or attempt to imbue another individual with an opinion, point of view or principle without consideration of any alternative opinion, point of view or principle."

Universities would be required to be ready to comply with the law by June 30, and would have to file annual reports stating no funds had been spent on DEI initiatives. Schools would be "periodically" audited by the state auditor, and the attorney general could compel a school not following the provisions to fall into line.

The schools would have

to create a policy prohibiting "discrimination on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint."

The Council for Postsecondary Education would likewise be prevented from spending money on DEI initiatives, a DEI office or training. The Council would have to conduct an annual survey to determine university student body's and staff's views on whether they are "exposed to a variety of ideological and political perspectives" and "feel at liberty to express their ideological and political viewpoints and beliefs on campus and in the classroom."

The bill contains language that would prohibit an agency that grants professional licenses from requiring diversity and inclusion training in order to obtain or renew a license.

Rep. Jennifer Decker, a Waddy Republican and the bill's chief sponsor,

told committee members the bill "would ensure our postsecondary system in Kentucky is held accountable to dismantle the failed DEI bureaucracy that have made our colleges ... less tolerant."

"House Bill 4 would allow our colleges and universities to return to their primary focus," and said the bill would create "an environment that fosters critical thinking" and "constructive dialogue."

Diversity, equity and inclusion is unconstitutional, Decker said, citing the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision that ended affirmative action in college admissions.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The following Estate has been probated in the McLean District Court:

ESTATE OF: Angela G. Johnson, DECEDENT
Christopher D. Johnson
101 Chambers Drive
Island, KY, Administrator
Christopher L. Rhoads
115 East Second Street,
Suite 100
Owensboro, KY 42301,
Attorney

Persons having claims against said estate should present same, verified according to law, to the personal representative no later than six (6) months from date of appointment.

Taylor Skaggs, Clerk
McLean District/Circuit Courts



NORTH MCLEAN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
P O BOX 68
217 HILL STREET
LIVERMORE, KY 42352
270-278-2800
nmcleanwater@bellsouth.net

NORTH MCLEAN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

North McLean County Water District will be accepting request for proposals for **Hwy 431 and Hwy 81 Tank Maintenance** until 1:00 p.m., prevailing time on April 7, 2025, at the North McLean County Water District office located at 217 Hill Street, Livermore, KY 42352; Attention: Michael Latham, Superintendent, at which time, all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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people as possible.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage; 352-216-3025, jamesnyder51@gmail.com, www.jamesnyderministries.com.

WONDER

FROM PAGE B4

over her shoulder to see if anybody was watching her. Then she finally looked at me and said, "Sir, I'm new here and have never heard of that discount before, and I do not believe that I can do it for you today. I'm so sorry for the misunderstanding." Then, much to my surprise, she smiled. After all, that's all I wanted.

I thanked her for her service, smiled, and told her to have a great day.

As I walked out, I could hear some customers behind me giggling. They were talking, but I couldn't understand what they were saying. At least I got a couple of people to smile.

Driving home from the store, the traffic was rather congested. People were going home from work, and many were not very patient. There was a lot of horn blowing and some old guys screaming. I'm unsure how that solved their problem, but I guess they had no other option. They must have had a hard day at work.

I just smiled as they drove by, not knowing their story. Why can't people just learn how to smile? I looked at all of them as they went by and smiled as best I could.

A couple of drivers looked a little religious in my mind. I'm unsure what they were yelling at me, but one person pointed me to heaven. I smiled and was very appreciative. I nodded, affirming that I was planning to go to

heaven. I noticed, though, that, being as religious as he was, he got his fingers mixed up and used the wrong finger to point to heaven.

Instead of being offended, I just smiled and even got to the point of laughing.

My day was successful because I made about five people laugh and several others smile. That makes for a great day.

I couldn't help but think of one of my favorite Bible verses. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

Laughter is the best medicine we could possibly have. And, we never run out of this medicine no matter our circumstances. My goal is to share my medicine with as many

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