

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

August 5, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on August 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Representative Stephanie Dietz, Co-Chair; and, Representative and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Hilary Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Support Services.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Spring Emerson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 3, 2026 and July 1, 2026 meetings were not approved, due to the lack of a quorum.

Department of Corrections

Hilary Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Support Services, provided information on Food Service and Prison Farm Operations.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said they have used the same food service contractor since 2005, which is Aramark. The most recent master agreement for food service operations was awarded to them in 2025 in accordance with provisions of KRS Chapter 45A, known as the Model Procurement Code.

In response to Representative Sharp, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said the cost of the contract is approximately \$12 million to \$13 million annually, depending on the inmate population. The rate per inmate per day is \$4.39.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Commissioner Daily said the current prison population averages approximately 12,000 inmates per day. The jails have an average of approximately 7,000 per day and are not part of this contract, but they have the option to join the contract if they choose.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said the goal of Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) is to help offenders to gain employment upon release by providing the opportunity to develop marketable job skills with hands-on experience in various industries while incarcerated. KCI is comprised of 13 types of industry, a Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program, and 3 farm operations. The farms operate at Northpoint Training Center, Roederer Correctional Complex, and Western Kentucky Correctional Complex, encompassing over 5,700 acres and employing up to 40 inmates. Northpoint has a herd of 68 cattle and produces hay. Roederer is the largest farm, maintaining a herd of 750 cattle and produces 100 acres of corn silage for feed. The Western Kentucky complex operates 2 farms growing hay, managing a herd of 75 cattle, and producing 1,200 acres of soybeans. The prison farm operations do not have any food production at this time. The cattle raised on the farms are sold at the local stockyard and the soybeans are sold to a local grain elevator. In fiscal year 2025, the combined farm operations realized a profit of \$550,000. Any profits made by the prison industries is reinvested into prison programs.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said Aramark Food Service is contracted for 13 state operated prisons and 1 private prison, and are encouraged to utilize Kentucky Proud partner products. The production of food for inmate consumption ended in the early 2000s.

In response to Representative Sharp, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said if local jails wanted to join the contract, they would need to contact the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Commissioner Dailey said some considerations for inmate grown produce would be security protocols as well as transportation costs, among others. Northpoint employs a farm manager and utilizes 10 inmates; Roederer has 6 employees and utilizes 20 inmates; and, Western Kentucky has 2 employees and utilizes 10 inmates. More information will be provided to the subcommittee.

Chair Funke Frommeyer expressed her appreciation for their efforts to coordinate and strengthen rural prosperity while reducing taxpayer burden. The Department of Corrections will be invited back to address the subcommittee in October.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM ET/8:28 AM CT.