INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 2026 Interim

October 20, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call
The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government was held on October 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Michael J. Nemes, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:
Members: Senator Michael J. Nemes, Co-Chair; Representative Patrick Flannery, Co-Chair; Senators Scott Madon, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Robby Mills, Steve Rawlings, and Lindsey Tichenor; and Representatives Steven Doan, Ken Fleming, Chris Freeland, Peyton Griffee, Mark Hart, Mary Beth Imes, Chris Lewis, Michael Meredith, Amy Neighbors, Rachel Roarx, Sarah Stalker, and Susan Witten.

Guests: Rebecca Morton, Local Government Advisor, Department for Local Government (DLG); Tammy Vernon, Branch Manager, DLG; Keeiara Lail, Local Government Advisor, DLG: Bruce Roberts, Executive Director, Kentucky Fire Commission (KFC); and Chuck Bonta, Training Records and Compliance Specialist, KFC.

LRC Staff: Mark Mitchell, Christopher Jacovitch, and Faithe Wheatley.

Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2026 Meeting
A motion was made by Senator Mills and seconded by Senator Madon to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Presentation of Special Purpose Governmental Entity (SPGE) Reports
Bruce Roberts, Executive Director, KFC, and Chuck Bonta, Training Records and Compliance Specialist, KFC, provided a review of the KFC's financial disclosure as required under KRS 95A.055, including compliance status and reviews, revenue and expense updates, and an overview and update of fire departments.

In response to Representative Roarx, Mr. Bonta stated the gaps in fire departments are not in education, but in the low number of volunteer firefighters and community board members which leads to a lack of oversight with non-profit fire departments.

Tammy Vernon, Branch Manager, DLG; Rebecca Morton, Local Government Advisor, DLG; and Keeiara Lail, Local Government Advisor, DLG, presented the annual special purpose government entity (SPGE) report, highlighted the on-line portal where SPGE information can be publicly accessed, provided the SPGE status summary, discussed SPGE task and audit compliance, and provided a summary of changes stemming from 2026 RS SB 133 and DLG's implementation plan.

In response to Chair Nemes, Ms. Vernon stated DLG is currently working on a draft that includes business rules and supports for the language of 2026 RS SB 133 and that the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) has been contacted to build the shell of the program. Ms. Vernon stated DLG is on target for the implementation of 2026 RS SB 133 and feels the coming changes will be helpful to SPGEs and local governments.

In response to Chair Nemes, Ms. Vernon explained the process of what occurs when SPGEs are not in compliance with SPGE reporting requirements.

In response to Senator Mays Bledsoe, Ms. Vernon stated having a central location to view an overall and complete tax picture would be helpful.

Senator Nemes announced the next meeting of the committee is Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM in Annex Room 149.

Adjournment
With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.