

2020 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC RETIREMENT, AND FINANCE
of the
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

2nd Meeting

February 20, 2020

The House Budget Review Subcommittee on Personnel, Public Retirement, and Finance of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue held its second meeting of the 2020 Regular Session on February 20, 2020, at 10:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present: Representative Myron Dossett, Chair; Representatives Joe Graviss, Adam Koenig, Michael Meredith, Phillip Pratt, and Nancy Tate.

Guests: Nicolai Jilek, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT); John McGuire, Deputy Commissioner, DOCJT; Kevin Rader, Assistant Director, Administrative Division, DOCJT; Mike Harmon, Auditor of Public Accounts (APA); and, Sara Beth Gregory, Chief of Staff, APA.

LRC Staff: Zach Ireland, Liz Columbia, and Spring Emerson.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dossett called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting. Motion was made by Representative Tate, seconded by Representative Koenig, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Department of Criminal Justice Training

Commissioner Jilek provided an overview of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program (KLEFP) Fund.

In response to a question from Chair Dossett regarding the amount of revenue being generated by the insurance surcharge, Mr. Rader answered approximately \$85 million to \$88 million is brought in each fiscal year. He will provide the exact amounts at a later date.

In response to a question from Representative Graviss regarding the need for more officers, Commissioner Jilek said all mandates for the department are currently fully funded. The average starting wage in Kentucky is lower than in other states, and each community has to deal with the issues of salaries and benefits at a local level. DOCJT

offers top-notch training and support, as well as a stipend. Mr. Rader said the Governor's budget recommendation shows a balance forward, and the recommendation fully funds the agency mandates for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

In response to a question from Chair Dossett, Commissioner Jilek said there are currently approximately 8,000 officers participating in the KLEF Program in Kentucky.

Representative Koenig recommended that members take a tour of the training facilities at the Eastern Kentucky University campus.

In response to questions from Representative Koenig, Commissioner Jilek said the training program lasts 20 weeks, and has the highest attendance in the United States. The budget recommendation fully funds the program, as well as all mandates within the department. Mr. Rader said the listed average salary amounts do not include the stipend.

In response to a question from Representative Tate regarding funds distributed by county, Commissioner Jilek said the Kentucky Retirement Systems has specific requirements for who qualifies for KLEFP funds.

In response to questions from Representative Meredith regarding stipend programs in other states, Commissioner Jilek said other states are looking to Kentucky as an example of the success of the program. Mr. Rader said more information regarding any administrative cost offset and pension cost that would affect the stipend amount will be provided at a later date.

In response to a question from Chair Dossett, Mr. Rader said the total stipend amount, including the retirement contribution and administrative fees, was approximately \$44 million in fiscal year 2019 and approximately \$45 million in fiscal year 2020.

Commissioner Jilek thanked Representative Koenig for his recommendation for the members to tour the training facility, and extended an open invitation for the visit.

Auditor of Public Accounts

Mike Harmon, State Auditor, provided information regarding the KLEFP Fund from the perspective of his agency. The surcharge on property and casualty insurance also provides funds to the Kentucky Firefighters Program Foundation Fund as well as the KLEFP fund.

Chair Dossett commented that the goal is to make sure the funds are used for the stipends for first responders, police, and firefighters. Mr. Harmon agreed that was the intention.

Adjournment

There being no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.