

# HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, & JUDICIARY (H)

## Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 14, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice, Public Safety, & Judiciary (H) was held on February 14, 2023, at 12:00 PM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Patrick Flannery, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Patrick Flannery, Chair; Representative Brandon Reed, Representative Jennifer Decker, and Representative Nima Kulkarni.

Guests: John Hicks, Executive Cabinet Secretary, State Budget Director; and Vicki Reed, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Benjamin Thompson.

### Update from the Department of Juvenile Justice

Secretary Hicks and Commissioner Reed provided a presentation regarding the status and budgetary needs of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

In response to questions from Chair Flannery, Commissioner Reed noted that none of the state's twenty nine juvenile justice facilities are closed. Secretary Hicks noted that prior to calendar year 2022, youth detention workers were paid a starting salary of \$30 thousand per year. Secretary Hicks stated that he was unsure whether RS 2023 HB 3 provided appropriate funding for retrofitting the former downtown Louisville juvenile detention center.

In response to a question from Representative Kulkarni, Secretary Hicks said that the reclassification of youth detention workers to correctional officers in the eight juvenile detention centers was to differentiate between the increasing demands of the positions in those centers.

In response to a question from Chair Flannery, Secretary Hicks stated that if the downtown Louisville detention center were renovated, the detention center that exists in Jefferson County would still need improvements, as a need to separate high risk and low risk offenders still exists. Secretary Hicks noted that the locality premium paid to those working in Jefferson County is for current employees as well as new hires. Secretary Hicks noted that the department's budgetary request would likely be for an additional roughly \$20 million in operating expenses, an additional \$26 million in capital expenses. In addition, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet would like to see an additional \$30 million for adjustments to adult correctional officer salaries.

### Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.

