

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

## Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Regular Session

February 11, 2025

### 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 11, 2025, at 12:00 PM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Stephanie Dietz, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Stephanie Dietz Chair; Representatives Josh Bray, Jennifer Decker, Nima Kulkarni, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, Department of Corrections; Scott Jordan, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, Department of Corrections

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

### **Update - Department of Corrections - Kentucky Correctional Industries; Program Completion and Sentence Credits; Little Sandy Correctional Complex Expansion**

Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, Department of Corrections; and Scott Jordan, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, Department of Corrections provided information regarding the Department of Corrections.

In response to questions from Chair Dietz, Ms. Dailey stated that additional funding that the General Assembly provided Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) was sufficient. Ms. Dailey noted that the Department does not foresee additional county jails joining the sentence credit program. To join the program a jail would need to apply and be approved by the Reentry Division of the Department. Inmates are paid between \$.68 and \$1.28 per hour in a manufacturing environment, while inmates employed on a farm are paid either \$3.02 or \$1.51 per day depending on if they are eligible for work for time credit.

In response to questions from Representative Bray, Ms. Dailey noted that the Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) is intended to provide a certificate for inmates who complete the program to assist them in attaining employment upon

release.

In response to a question from Representative Kulkarni, Ms. Dailey said that for an employer to become a PIECP partner they must certify that no existing staff would be displaced by participation in the program.

In response to a question from Chair Dietz, Ms. Dailey noted that inmate pay goes to their inmate account. A PIECP inmate earns more than a regular KCI inmate, but they are subject to wage withholding orders in cases of child support or the crime victims compensation fund. Mr. Jordan noted that the Department intends to hire roughly 200 additional staff for the completed Little Sandy Correctional Complex expansion. The department does not anticipate problems staffing the expanded complex.

In response to a question from Representative Bray, Mr. Jordan stated that there are over 1000 inmate beds at the Little Sandy Correctional Complex and when the expansion is completed there will be just short of 2000 beds.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 PM.