

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

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 3, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice, Public Safety, and Judiciary of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on February 3, 2026, at 10:00 AM 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 Adam Bowling, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections; Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; Brian Lock, Executive Staff Advisor to the Department of Juvenile Justice; Rob Ratliff, Executive Director, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council; and, Elizabeth Elkins Bond, Attorney, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Jim Thornton.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the January 13 and January 20, 2026, minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Department of Corrections - Lee Adjustment Center Funding

Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections, gave an overview of the budgetary requests for the Lee Adjustment Center.

In response to Chair Dietz, Deputy Commissioner Dailey stated that privately owned facilities are required to have at least a ten percent savings.

In response to Representative Bowling, Deputy Commissioner Dailey indicated the request is not in the Governor's budget.

Department of Juvenile Justice - Facility Staffing

Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice, gave an overview of the

recruitment and retention concerns for the department. Commissioner White stated that there has been improvement in the mental health and medical staffing profiles but that historic changes in the pension program represent a barrier for staffing.

In response to Chair Dietz, the department recommended a return to tier two for pensions and stated that the structured environment of the facilities was another barrier to staffing. Commissioner White stated that the legally mandated regional facility model for the proposed female facilities will reduce transportation costs and aid in recruiting.

In response to Representative Bowling, it was noted that there is an upward trend in filling open positions.

Department of Criminal Justice Training - KY Law Enforcement Council Operating Costs

Rob Ratliff, Executive Director, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, indicated that the funding request will provide for additional personnel to help meet mandated requirements.

In response to Chair Dietz, the Department has one attorney and one part-time administrative assistant and the current request is for one attorney and one paralegal. It was also stated that the department needs three attorneys to keep up with the work load.

In response to Representative Sharp, Director Ratliff said there are eight academies and a total staff of fifteen.

In response to Representative Bowling, Director Ratliff stated the department had moved to separate offices to provide separation from the DOCJT and would now have to pay rent.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026. There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.