

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Regular Session

February 13, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government was held on February 13, 2025, at 12:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Freeland, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representatives Chris Freeland, Chair, and Mark Hart, Vice Chair.

Guests: Wil Schroder, Senior Counsel, Office of Attorney General; Michael Adams, Secretary of State; Jenni Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State; Mark Metcalf, State Treasurer; Russell Webber, Deputy State Treasurer; Allison Ball, Auditor; Lorrان Ferguson, Chief of Staff; and Alexander Magera, General Counsel, Auditor of Public Accounts.

LRC Staff: Joseph Holt, Emma Mills, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Auditor of Public Accounts

Allison Ball, Auditor, provided a brief overview of the budget request from the Auditor of Public Accounts during the 2026 Regular Session.

In response to Chair Freeland's question about where the public could access information online, Ms. Ball stated that a summary of the office's activities from the previous year is

available online. Additionally, a summary of this year's work will be posted at the end of 2026.

Office of Secretary of State

Michael Adams, Secretary of State, gave an update on the functions of the office.

Responding to questions from Representative Hart, Mr. Adams said the office is self-funded in that the Safe At Home program provides approximately \$3,000 a year in revenue, about 10 percent of operation costs.

In response to Chair Freeland's remark concerning expanding the Safe At Home program, Mr. Adams stated that he believes the best solution is for the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary of State's office to access more of the money taken in annually. With more awareness and trainings, the program will expand and tax money will not have to be used.

Kentucky State Treasury

Mark Metcalf, State Treasurer, gave a brief update on the office functions and the Unclaimed Property Fund.

In response to Chair Freeland's questions about where the physical property is stored, Mr. Metcalf said stock certificates, cash, and bullion are stored in a secure vault. Mr. Webber added that a request for funding to expand the vault would be forthcoming in the 2026 Regular Session.

Office of Attorney General

Wil Schroder, Senior Counsel, provided an update on the office's budget.

There were no questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at

12:41 PM.