

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2022 Interim

July 6, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Michael J. Nemes, Co-Chair; Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Christian McDaniel, Robby Mills, Adrienne Southworth, Reginald Thomas, and Stephen West; Representatives Kevin D. Bratcher, Jeffery Donohue, Jim Gooch Jr., Derrick Graham, Mark Hart, Adam Koenig, Suzanne Miles, Jerry T. Miller, Jason Petrie, Phillip Pratt, and Buddy Wheatley.

Guests: Gerina Whethers, Secretary, Personnel Cabinet; and, Mary Elizabeth Bailey, Commissioner, Department of Human Resources Administration, Personnel Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Emma Mills, Liz Columbia, and Spring Emerson.

Executive Branch Classification and Compensation Report

Secretary Whethers introduced Commissioner Bailey, who provided a brief overview of the Executive Branch Classification and Compensation Report. Commissioner Bailey referenced an illustration in the report and upon questioning, Chair Dossett commented that the report was not provided to the members, due to the Cabinet requesting that it not be released until after the meeting.

Representative Graham expressed his disappointment that the report was not provided before the meeting, due to his continuing support of state government employees.

Secretary Whethers commented that the Cabinet had worked several months to deliver a product and intended to provide the full report to the subcommittee, and it had been withheld due to a miscommunication.

Representative Petrie thanked the Cabinet for their work and commented that the issue of compensation for state government employees is an important one. The issue was discussed in a meeting of this subcommittee on July 7, 2021 and the report was agreed to be due on September 1, 2021, which, in hindsight, was an impossible deadline. A percent increase in compensation was discussed in that meeting, but the scales are horribly skewed due to compression and compaction issues. Annual increments are an effective tool to deal with these issues. An updated salary schedule was expected in this report. Kentucky government exists to render services to citizens in an effective, efficient, and meaningful manner. This cannot be achieved without good employees, and they cannot be recruited or retained without a good compensation package. The report that was provided is a list of bullet points and recommendations, rather than the detailed data and analyses that are required in order to recruit and retain qualified personnel.

Representative Petrie requested that the Personnel Cabinet meet with him in fourteen days to discuss compaction and compression issues in detail.

Adjournment

Upon agreement with Chair Dossett, a motion was made by Representative Petrie to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Senator Thomas, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 AM.