

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

July 31, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on July 31, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Matthew Koch, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Matthew Koch, Co-Chair; Senator Julie Raque Adams, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Jimmy Higdon, Jason Howell, Michael J. Nemes, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives Chad Aull, Kim Banta, Emily Callaway, Mike Clines, Anne Gay Donworth, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Tony Hampton, Samara Heavrin, Kevin Jackson, Nima Kulkarni, Michael Meredith, Amy Neighbors, Rebecca Raymer, Tom Smith, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Kyle Elliott, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors; Representative Ken Fleming; Representative Lisa Willner; Allyson Taylor, Commissioner, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC); and Joshua Newton, General Counsel, ABC.

LRC Staff: Bryce Amburgey, CaraBell Preece, Jasmine Williams, and Lisa W. Moore.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 18, 2025, Meeting

Co-Chair Adams motioned to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2025, meeting, and Representative Fister seconded the motion. Motion carried and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

Employment and Occupational Licensing Issues

Representative Callaway discussed her proposed employment bill that removes barriers keeping individuals with criminal records from reentering the workforce. The goal is to employ over 30,000 people in meaningful careers. Each board will ensure due process when examining evidence and ruling about individual licenses. Chair Koch said members may make suggestions to Representative Callaway to strengthen and improve her bill prior to the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Engineer and Land Surveyor Board Update

Representative Callaway updated the committee on the Engineer and Land Surveyor Board. New applications are steady, but hiring new personnel is a challenge. The board is working to implement a new scholarship program with the Finance Cabinet. New legislation will be forthcoming in the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Staff is full, other than two investigative positions being hired to address the backlog. No other budgetary concerns. Licensees will be held responsible for the accuracy of any digital imaging or Artificial Intelligence (AI) items.

Responding to Chair Koch, Kyle Elliott, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors, said the board does not have licensure compacts with other states. The board licenses engineers and surveyors through endorsement, or a comity reciprocal license. Other licensees endorse, or verify, that applicants are qualified and able to do the appropriate work. Licensees must also meet Kentucky's examination and education requirements. Licensure by endorsement is at least a 10 day process.

Responding to Representative Smith regarding surveyor shortages, Mr. Elliott discussed university programs that give students education credit hours for experience with drones. Students are learning new technology, including drones with scanners and light art, that will assist students with surveyor courses to expedite certification.

Psychologists

Representative Ken Fleming and Representative Lisa Willner said their proposed legislation would authorize more psychologists to address critical mental health issues. The bill draft makes improvements to address workforce shortages in the field. There have been no objections or concerns from outside entities or agencies.

Review of Administrative Regulations

Allyson Taylor, Commissioner, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), and Joshua Newton, General Counsel, ABC, introduced themselves for the record and explained the administrative regulations and the agency amendments.

804 KAR 004:400 *Proposed* - Applications incorporated by reference.

Representative Heavrin motioned to accept agency amendments and Representative Meredith seconded the motion. Motion carried and the amendments were adopted by voice vote.

804 KAR 004:415 *Proposed* - Direct shipper license.

Representative Heavrin motioned to accept agency amendments and Representative Meredith seconded the motion. Motion carried and the amendments were adopted by voice vote.

Other Business

Responding to Chair Koch regarding adding a division to the ABC Board to regulate cannabis-infused products, Ms. Taylor said the ABC Board is the oldest law enforcement agency in the state of Kentucky. She noted it would take a statutory change to create a new branch or division in the ABC to regulate products other than alcohol. There are 40 officers in Kentucky for field reports and investigations, and more officers will be needed if additional duties and workload are implemented. Chair Koch said the board and ABC's role will be expanded and additional funding may be required. He wants the division to be all-encompassing and cover all intoxicating products.

Senator Higdon thanked the commissioner for ABC's hard work. He encouraged people to report abuses and bad actors to the ABC. Citizens can report stores selling alcohol, vapes, or cigarettes to minors, and ABC will investigate the reports.

In response to Representative Aull regarding best practices by other states, Ms. Taylor said Alabama legislators made Kentucky aware of cannabis-infused products. Each state has different problems, and she has not seen a state with one all-encompassing umbrella division to cover all products. Kentucky would be the first state to develop this approach.

Responding to Representative Donworth regarding the farm bill at the federal level, Ms. Taylor said hemp is legal in Kentucky, and Kentucky does not regulate manufacturers. She is unsure how the federal farm bill will affect the state.

In response to Representative Meredith regarding the creation of an emerging industries division, Ms. Taylor said the ABC Board will help in any way. Most industries strive to stay compliant and call with questions about grey areas. It is the bad actors that operate in the dark. Representative Meredith said a new statute may be needed to say a product is not legal unless ABC is regulating it. Statutory language can be tricky and needs to be clear upfront rather than trying to take things away later.

Chair Koch urged committee members to offer suggestions or ideas. Kentucky can be the first state to develop this division and can be groundbreaking for the rest of the country.

Adjournment

With no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.