

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 17, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on September 17, 2026, at 11:00 AM ET/10:00 AM CT 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 Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Jimmy Higdon, Jason Howell, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Stephen Meredith, Michael J. Nemes, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives Emily Callaway, Stephanie Dietz, Anne Gay Donworth, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Tony Hampton, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Kevin Jackson, Nima Kulkarni, Michael Meredith, Amy Neighbors, Rebecca Raymer, Tom Smith, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Brad Bonds, Co-founder; Shannon Smith, Co-founder, Revival Vintage Bottle Shop & Bar; Michelle M. Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance; Aaron Thompson, State Representative; Tamara G. McDaniel, Executive Director; and Morgan Ransdell, General Counsel, Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care.

LRC Staff: Bryce Amburgey, Wendy Craig, Jasmine Williams, and Lisa W. Moore.

Approval of Minutes of the August 27, 2026, Meeting

A motion was made by Co-Chair Adams and seconded by Senator Douglas to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Vintage Distilled Spirits

Representative Dietz explained the proposed legislative draft bill. She noted Revival Vintage Bottle Shop is a specialty retail store and tasting bar in Covington, Kentucky, specializing in rare and vintage bourbons and other spirits. Co-founders Brad Bonds and

Shannon Smith founded the establishment in late 2019. It uses a 2018 Kentucky law permitting the resale of pre-owned sealed bottles to offer one of the largest selections of vintage distilled spirits available. It positions itself as the world's first dedicated vintage distilled spirit bar and bottle shop, providing curated tasting experiences featuring rotating selections of historical pours alongside retail sales to collectors and enthusiasts.

Representative Dietz said the Kentucky vintage distilled spirits law enables licensed retailers, including bottle shops like Revival Vintage Bottle Shop, to acquire unopened distilled spirits packages directly from private sellers rather than through licensed distributors. Package sales are capped to prevent commercial flipping, with violations punishable under KRS 243.990, including fines or license revocation.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Bonds described their changes to enhance their business model, while providing sufficient safeguards for legitimate transactions, and avoiding overregulation that could stifle access to genuine and rare products. Ms. Smith said it is difficult to remain competitive as the only alcoholic beverage tier that is not allowed to ship its products.

Chair Koch agreed it is reasonable to have a conversation to revisit the law regarding vintage distilled spirits. He said a balance is needed to help licensed retailers, but not abusers of laws. Ms. Smith said she is frustrated that 5% of abusers can ruin it for everyone, and they would be happy to share information with legislators for future discussions.

Responding to Senator Douglas, Ms. Smith said one package is equal to one bottle. There are only 24 bottles, or packages, allowed to be purchased in a 12-month period.

Responding to Senator Higdon regarding licensing fees, Ms. Smith said a supplementary vintage distilled spirits license costs \$300 annually, while the various retail package licenses are typically \$5,000. She explained a collection can include several vintage bottles. She said shipping and direct mail could help their business grow and allow them to be more competitive. Rigid laws, such as not being allowed to buy from wholesalers, make it more difficult. Each vintage bottle must be labeled with a sticker.

Chair Koch said the definition of a vintage distilled spirit is in the bill draft if members would like to review.

Occupational Licensing Background Checks

Michelle Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance, provided an update on the implementation of 2026 RS HB 657 and HB 36. While some Kentucky boards were not able to administer licenses this summer, 4 of the 6 licensing boards in the 2 bills have received their FBI Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) numbers and a service code from the Kentucky State Police. The boards have instructed licensee applicants to complete their background and fingerprint checks to fulfill licensing requirements. One board is conducting special meetings in order to address the backlog.

Ms. Sanborn provided recommendations for future FBI fingerprint background check legislation, including the addition of a delayed effective date in the legislation. She shared an executive order issued in Nebraska that dealt with a similar situation.

Representative Dietz thanked Ms. Sanborn for her work on the matter and for addressing the issues for the licensees.

Respiratory Care

Representative Thompson, Tamara McDaniel, Executive Director, and Morgan Ransdell, General Counsel, Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care, discussed 2027 RS draft legislation. The legislation addresses the growing need for specialized cardiopulmonary providers in Kentucky's healthcare system. Representative Thompson said the primary component of the legislation is to create an advanced practice respiratory therapy (APRT) license. By 2030, it is estimated there will be a shortage of cardiologists and pulmonologists in the United States.

Ms. McDaniel said Kentucky has one of the highest lung disease rates in the nation. Kentucky citizens, especially located in rural areas, struggle to find specialized care for lung health needs. Kentucky also has the country's highest percentage of patients in long-term care facilities requiring ventilator dependency. An APRT license will allow highly skilled, specialized staff to assess, diagnose, manage, and treat patients with specific lung needs. Establishing a clear licensure pathway ensures that all APRTs meet rigorous national standards for education, training, and competence, thereby protecting the public and providing high quality care.

Ms. McDaniel said respiratory therapist employment is growing much faster than average, and apprenticeships speed up entry into these roles. Respiratory therapy

apprenticeships benefit the workforce by combining paid on-the-job training with formal education, which helps hospitals overcome severe staff shortages while making high-skill healthcare careers more accessible. Apprenticeships help non-traditional and underrepresented students enter healthcare fields and remove financial barriers by allowing them to earn wages while they learn. Adding a regulatory aspect to apprenticeships allows them to have an expanded scope of practice as they gain experience and education.

Mr. Ransdell noted the passage of the respiratory interstate compact bill in the 2026 RS brought Kentucky into compliance with other states. He discussed the 2027 RS draft legislation regarding general housekeeping amendments, including additions, changes or clarifications to suspension, reactivation, reinstatement, a statutory civil penalty cap, and other disciplinary changes. There are changes to the limited licensee scope of practice that will allow them to perform arterial puncture and clearly defines physiologic ventilatory support. The bill draft identifies the certification period for continuing education and allows the board to process a license renewal for individuals who failed to comply with CEU requirements.

Responding to Senator Berg, Ms. McDaniel said APRTs will assist with physician practices in rural areas. They can fill in the gaps in rural areas and help pulmonologists and lung specialists. Representative Thompson explained the scope of practice of the APRT role. Senator Berg is concerned with the additional duties of APRTs.

Senator Douglas is offended to hear respiratory specialists are performing advanced lung techniques. He cautioned increased scrutiny while proceeding with the bill. Ms. McDaniel clarified that respiratory therapists are uniquely trained and qualified in cardiopulmonary diseases.

Responding to Representative Raymer, Ms. McDaniel said several other states are introducing similar legislation. Ohio State University has the educational program in place, and two APRTs are working in the VA healthcare system. Representative Raymer has concerns with the legislation.

Responding to Representative Donworth, Representative Thompson said they have been meeting with the Kentucky Medical Association since September 2025, and will continue working with them to agree on language. Representative Donworth has concerns with expanding scopes of practice for various professions, and said it should be limited to respiratory issues only.

Responding to Senator Higdon, Mr. Ransdell said restricted funds, not taxpayer funds, would be used to raise board member compensation.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.