

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

## **Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim**

**July 24, 2025**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary was held on July 24, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Daniel Elliott, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Representative Daniel Elliott, Co-Chair; Senator Brandon J. Storm, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Matthew Deneen, Gerald A. Neal, Michael J. Nemes, Aaron Reed, Reginald L. Thomas, and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Jared Bauman, Lindsey Burke, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Patrick Flannery, Peyton Griffie, Nima Kulkarni, Derek Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Mary Lou Marzian, Jason Nemes, Jason Petrie, T.J. Roberts, Mitch Whitaker, Wade Williams, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Representative Samara Heavrin; Doug Kerr, Constituent; Angie Kerr, Constituent; Judge Lisa Jones, Kentucky Court of Appeals, 1st Appellate District; Ramsey Dallam, Deputy Director, Special Prosecutions Division, Office of the Attorney General; Shawna Mitchell, Administrator, Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health; Representative Ryan Bivens; Rebecca Steele, Constituent; and Ike Van Meter, Constituent.

LRC Staff: Roberta Kiser, Stephanie Larkin, Matissa Robinson, Eric Rodenberg, Randall Roof, Joshua Shelepak, and Robert Wright.

### **Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2025 Meeting**

A motion was made by Senator Storm and seconded by Senator Deneen to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

### **"Angela's Law"**

Representative Samara Heavrin and Doug and Angie Kerr, Constituents, discussed 2024 Regular Session HB 198, otherwise known as "Angela's Law." Representative Heavrin discussed the provisions of Angela's Law and the circumstances of the bill's filing. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr recounted the events surrounding their daughter's murder.

### **KRS Chapter 202C**

Judge Lisa Jones, Kentucky Court of Appeals, 1st Appellate District; Ramsey Dallam, Deputy

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/8>

Director, Special Prosecutions Division, Office of the Attorney General; and Shawna Mitchell, Administrator, Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health, provided an overview of Chapter 202C of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Ms. Dallam detailed the chapter's history, purpose, and its applicability to qualifying offenders; discussed the evidentiary hearing and commitment hearing processes and their purposes; and outlined the criteria for involuntary commitment and the schedule for involuntary commitment review hearings. Judge Jones further detailed the chapter's history and total commitments, discharges, and current patients. Judge Jones also discussed judicial considerations regarding KRS Chapter 202C and provided an overview of the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health (KYJCMH).

In response to Senator Carroll, Judge Jones stated the number of reindicted patients who were previously committed and discharged. She affirmed draft language is being written to address needed clean-up.

In response to Senator Thomas, Judge Jones discussed the shifting standard of proof in the KRS Chapter 202C evidentiary hearing phase.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Ms. Dallam discussed physicians' evaluation restrictions during the commitment hearing phase. She also discussed Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center physicians' possible conflicts of interest when evaluating KRS Chapter 202C qualifying offenders. Judge Jones detailed the typical timeline challenge for a KRS Chapter 202C appeals process.

In response to Representative Dietz, Judge Jones discussed the role of the guardian ad litem (GAL) in a KRS Chapter 202C proceeding and GAL compensation.

In response to Representative Burke, Ms. Dallam discussed KYJCMH focus groups tasked with identifying sections of KRS Chapter 202C that may need amendment.

In response to Representative Elliott, Ms. Dallam confirmed applicability of qualifying offenders under KRS Chapter 202C.

### **Eminent Domain**

Representative Ryan Bivens; Representative Roberts; Rebecca Steele, Constituent; and Ike Van Meter, Constituent, discussed eminent domain in Kentucky. Ms. Steele and Mr. Van Meter shared their personal experiences with eminent domain. Representative Bivens discussed the impact of eminent domain on the agricultural industry in Kentucky. Representative Roberts discussed caselaw regarding eminent domain.

In response to Senator Thomas, Representative Roberts discussed 2025 Regular Session HB

353 and compensation regarding properties taken under eminent domain.

In response to Representative Williams, Representative Bivens shared his personal experience with utility providers.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 PM.