

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

## **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim**

**August 29, 2025**

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

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary was held on August 29, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Brandon J. Storm, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Senator Brandon J. Storm, Co-Chair; Representative Daniel Elliott, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Matthew Deneen, Gerald A. Neal, Michael J. Nemes, Aaron Reed, Reginald L. Thomas, and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Kim Banta, Jared Bauman, John Blanton, Lindsey Burke, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Patrick Flannery, Chris Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Mary Lou Marzian, Kimberly Poore Moser, Jason Nemes, Jason Petrie, T.J. Roberts, Pamela Stevenson, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Deputy Division Director, State Initiatives, Justice Center, Council of State Governments (CSG); David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisor, State Initiatives, Justice Center, CSG; John T. McGarvey, Commissioner, Uniform Law Commission (ULC); Jane Sternecky, Legislative Counsel, ULC; and Daryl Baker, Volunteer Executive Council Member, AARP Kentucky.

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

### **Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2025 Meeting**

A motion was made by Representative Flannery and seconded by Co-Chair Elliott to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

### **Kentucky's Justice Reinvestment Initiative – Domestic Violence**

Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Deputy Division Director, State Initiatives, Justice Center, CSG, and David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisor, State Initiatives, Justice Center, CSG, provided an overview of domestic violence statistics in Kentucky. Ms. Whelan-Wuest discussed how CSG's Justice Center was requested to identify data-driven solutions regarding domestic violence in Kentucky and their analysis of data from Kentucky agencies regarding domestic violence. Mr. D'Amora discussed the key challenges related to domestic violence in Kentucky and policies intended to reduce domestic violence adopted in other states. Mr.

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

D'Amora detailed the 2020 Violence Against Women Act Statewide Needs Assessment and its recommendations to reduce domestic violence in Kentucky.

In response to Chair Storm, Mr. D'Amora agreed to provide information regarding domestic violence cases that involve strangulation.

In response to Representative Burke , Mr. D'Amora discussed recommendations to improve service of process.

In response to Representative Nemes, Mr. D'Amora elaborated on an earlier statement, and Mr. D'Amora and Ms. Whelan-Wuest provided recommendations for reducing domestic violence in Kentucky.

In response to Representative Roberts, Mr. D'Amora discussed screening tools used to identify repeat domestic violence offenders. He detailed factors used to determine an individual's likelihood to commit domestic violence, and discussed EPOs and DVOs.

In response to Representative Dietz, Mr. D'Amora discussed the systems used regarding service of process.

### **Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act**

Senator Thomas; John T. McGarvey, Commissioner, ULC; Jane Sternecky, Legislative Counsel, ULC; and Daryl Baker, Volunteer Executive Council Member, AARP Kentucky, discussed 2026 RS BR 320, otherwise known as "AN ACT Relating to Heirs Property." Senator Thomas discussed the provisions of, and the circumstances surrounding, the proposed bill. Mr. McGarvey discussed the purpose of the ULC, his role as a Uniform Law Commissioner, and the provisions of the bill. Ms. Sternecky detailed the ULC's role in proposing the legislation and the provisions of the bill. Mr. Baker spoke in favor of the bill on behalf of AARP Kentucky.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Mr. McGarvey confirmed his inquiry regarding right of redemption. Ms. Sternecky discussed the timeline for sales of heirs property. Senator Thomas discussed how the proposed bill would affect foreclosure actions.

In response to Representative Blanton, Ms. Sternecky discussed due process protections under the proposed bill.

In response to Representative Flannery, Mr. McGarvey discussed foreclosure sales and Ms. Sternecky discussed due process protections.

In response to Representative Nemes, Senator Thomas discussed provisions of the

proposed bill.

In response to Co-Chair Elliott, Ms. Sternecky discussed provisions of the proposed bill related to titles, and shared that the American Land Title Association has endorsed this act.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:24 PM.