

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2026 Interim

June 9, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary was held on June 9, 2026, at 11:00 AM ET/10:00 AM CT in Room 154 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, and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Lindsey Burke, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Patrick Flannery, Peyton Griffie, Chris Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Kimberly Poore Moser, Jason Nemes, T.J. Roberts, Mitch Whitaker, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Russell Coleman, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General; and Phillip Burnett, Jr., Commissioner, Kentucky State Police (KSP).

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

Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Senator Carroll and seconded by Senator Deneen to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Office of the Attorney General Update

Attorney General Russell Coleman, Commonwealth of Kentucky, provided an update on the activities and priorities of his office. Attorney General Coleman discussed efforts to combat violent crime, substance abuse, online child exploitation, and support law enforcement.

Attorney General Coleman highlighted the violent crime prosecution initiative in Louisville; recent indictments and convictions; partnerships with local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies; the \$15 million body armor grant program that equips Kentucky law enforcement agencies with body armor and other gear; law enforcement mental

health initiatives; and the development of a digital forensics laboratory in Western Kentucky. He also discussed efforts related to the administration of the death penalty in Kentucky, including 2026 RS SB 251, which brings the Commonwealth's death penalty regulations in line with other states' death penalty regulations. Attorney General Coleman called on Governor Andy Beshear to sign the death warrant of an individual convicted of shooting two police officers in 1992.

Attorney General Coleman discussed reductions in overdose deaths in the Commonwealth; activities of the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC); opioid settlement grants awarded to Kentucky organizations; and the 'Better Without It' youth drug prevention campaign. He detailed a collaboration with the federal government to schedule a narcotic that has contributed to 50 deaths in Northern Kentucky.

Attorney General Coleman summarized current litigation involving social media, gaming, and artificial intelligence platforms and other efforts of the Office of Attorney General to combat the online exploitation of children.

In response to Representative Roberts, Attorney General Coleman discussed possible constitutional and statutory concerns related to the Attorney General signing death warrants and ongoing collaborations with the federal government regarding the death penalty.

In response to Representative Nemes, Attorney General Coleman discussed the implementation of Kentucky's medical cannabis law.

In response to Chair Storm, Attorney General Coleman discussed his office's efforts to combat Medicaid Fraud; ongoing healthcare fraud investigations; and a collaboration with the White House to combat waste and abuse of federal benefit programs.

Department of Kentucky State Police Update

Commissioner Phillip Burnett, Jr., KSP, provided an update on KSP's operations and initiatives. Commissioner Burnett outlined KSP's statewide law enforcement responsibilities, including but not limited to, assisting local law enforcement agencies with traditional policing and specialized assistance with collision reconstruction, electronic crimes, and the utilization of K-9 units. He also outlined the agency's expanding electronic crime investigation capabilities and federal partnerships.

Commissioner Burnett detailed KSP's recruitment, retention, and training efforts. He highlighted the 544 applications received for the current cadet class, resulting in 85

conditional letters of employment and 57 acceptances. He also discussed recruitment challenges faced by law enforcement agencies nationwide, citing statistics related to the difficulty to retain officers; how outreach programs have impacted recruitment, citing positive results; and filling KSP telecommunicator vacancies.

Commissioner Burnett highlighted recent investments funded by the General Assembly, including upgraded equipment, officer safety initiatives, new training facilities, and the replacement of two dilapidated KSP posts.

Commissioner Burnett detailed recent drug enforcement efforts, citing a decrease in overdoses; crime trends, citing a decrease in violent crime; ongoing driver testing operations; improvements to KSP's 6 forensics laboratories; reductions in the sexual assault kit backlog and turnaround times; and KSP's future funding priorities, including radio communication infrastructure and vehicle replacement needs.

In response to Representative Roberts, Commissioner Burnett detailed investigative technologies utilized by KSP, including license plates readers, facial recognition technology, and body cameras; highlighted the policies crafted by KSP governing the use of artificial intelligence when using investigative technologies to ensure quality and protection of privacy.

In response to Representative Roberts, Commissioner Burnett discussed KSP's vehicle shortage, vehicle procurement methods, and fleet management improvements.

In response to Representative Roberts, Commissioner Burnett agreed to provide information related to KSP policies governing the use of investigative technologies and data privacy protections.

In response to Chair Storm, Commissioner Burnett confirmed the number of outstanding sexual assault kits; and discussed the coordination between local emergency dispatch centers and KSP posts to provide continuous access to telecommunicators, and the law enforcement authority of KSP employees at regional driver's license locations.

In response to Representative Moser, Commissioner Burnett detailed KSP's implementation of 2024 RS HB 682, otherwise known as Ian's Law.

In response to Senator Carroll, Commissioner Burnett discussed impediments to driver testing appointment availability, scheduling challenges, and efforts to improve access to testing services.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.