

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

August 6, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary was held on August 6, 2026, at 11:00 AM ET/10:00 AM CT 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, Gerald A. Neal, Michael J. Nemes, and Aaron Reed; and Representatives Jared Bauman, John Blanton, Lindsey Burke, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Patrick Flannery, Nima Kulkarni, Derek Lewis, Chris Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Mary Lou Marzian, Kimberly Poore Moser, Jason Nemes, Jason Petrie, T.J. Roberts, Pamela Stevenson, Mitch Whitaker, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Elisha Mahoney, Executive Staff Advisor and Acting Director, Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Board; Steve Shannon, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Regional Programs (KARP); David Ashford, CEO, APB Consulting Solutions; Scott O'Brien, President, APB Consulting Solutions; William Santiago, Strategic Advisor, APB Consulting Solutions; and Jeff Asher, Co-Founder, AH Datalytics.

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

Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2026 Meeting

A motion was made by Representative Blanton, and seconded by Representative D. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Steve Shannon, Executive Director, KARP; and Elisha Mahoney, Executive Staff Advisor and Acting Director, Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Board, provided an update on the panel's activities and findings.

Mr. Shannon discussed the panel's membership, case review processes, annual reporting requirements, and recommendations to state agencies. He highlighted increases in child overdose and ingestion cases, physical abuse cases, and concerns regarding law enforcement involvement and coordination in child fatality and near fatality investigations.

Ms. Mahoney discussed cases involving children's exposure to controlled substances. She detailed recommendations concerning safe storage of medications and controlled substances, child-resistant packaging, public education, drug screening, and improved coordination among law enforcement, the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), medical providers, and prosecutors.

In response to Representative Dietz, Mr. Shannon discussed safe storage of medications and efforts to distribute medication lock boxes through state agencies, health-care providers, and community organizations.

In response to Representative Blanton, Mr. Shannon discussed investigations and prosecutions involving child overdose and ingestion cases, detailing challenges related to determining how children obtain controlled substances, and communication among law enforcement agencies, DCBS, and prosecutors.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Ms. Mahoney discussed limitations related to identifying the form and source of controlled substances involved in child ingestion cases.

In response to Senator Carroll, Ms. Mahoney discussed statutory changes related to child neglect and controlled substance ingestion and the panel's authority to engage with state and local agencies on specific cases.

In response to Representative Nemes, Mr. Shannon agreed to provide recommendations concerning Kentucky's medical cannabis program, the illegality of child-attractive cannabis products, and parental accountability.

In response to Representative Marzian, Mr. Shannon agreed to provide information related to the cost of drug screenings in fatality and near fatality investigations.

Real-Time Crime Index

Jeff Asher, Co-Founder, AH Datalytics, provided an overview of the Real-Time Crime Index and current trends. Mr. Asher discussed challenges associated with the availability, consistency, and accuracy of national crime data, his organization's use of standardized and audited data from law enforcement agencies to provide timely estimates of national

and state crime trends, and the limitations of using Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime reporting data for Louisville crime trends.

Mr. Asher demonstrated the Real-Time Crime Index's website, reporting nationwide declines in murder, violent crime, and property crime and discussed similar declines in Kentucky.

In response to Senator Neal, Mr. Asher discussed deficiencies in Louisville Metro Police Department's (LMPD) crime reporting data to the FBI and the need for local and state law enforcement agencies to identify and correct reporting issues.

In response to Representative Roberts, Mr. Asher discussed the role of Kentucky State Police (KSP) in submitting crime data to the FBI, potential causes of reporting errors, and steps the General Assembly could take to encourage more accurate and timely reporting.

Conductive Distraction and De-escalation Device

David Ashford, CEO, APB Consulting Solutions; Scott O'Brien, President, APB Consulting Solutions; and William Santiago, Strategic Advisor, APB Consulting Solutions, discussed and demonstrated a conductive distraction and de-escalation device for use by law enforcement and corrections personnel.

Mr. Ashford detailed the device's intended use as a law enforcement tool to reduce the duration and level of physical force required to gain compliance during encounters with combative individuals. Mr. O'Brien discussed training requirements, current use by law enforcement and correctional agencies, and efforts to develop training courses for various circumstances.

Mr. Wallington and Representative Roberts demonstrated the device. Mr. Wallington detailed the device's use of low electrical output to stimulate peripheral nerves, and its potential to reduce injuries to officers and combative individuals during physical confrontations.

In response to Representative Nemes, Mr. Ashford discussed the device's effectiveness as a non-lethal deterrent. Mr. O'Brien discussed training for use.

In response to Senator Nemes, Mr. O'Brien discussed medical and use-of-force research concerning the device, the device's availability to law enforcement and military personnel, and measures intended to prevent unauthorized public access and use.

In response to Senator Carroll, Mr. O'Brien discussed training procedures for situations involving multiple officers and the coordination necessary to safely use the device during a physical confrontation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.