

# **BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

## **Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2023 Interim**

**June 7, 2023**

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

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection was held on June 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Fugate, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Representative Chris Fugate, Co-Chair; Senator Gary Boswell, Co-Chair; Representative Russell Webber, Senator Brandon Smith, Representative Chad Aull, Representative Josh Bray, Representative Al Gentry, Representative Mark Hart, Representative Matt Lockett, and Representative Reed.

Guests: Kent Chandler, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission.

LRC Staff: Joseph Holt, Sara Rome, and Amie Elam.

### **Public Service Commission**

Chairman, Kent Chandler, gave a general overview of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and an update on legislation passed in the 2023 Regular Session that will have an impact on the commission.

In response to a question from Representative Lockett, Mr. Chandler said that some of the reasons for the high turnover in the management division at the Public Service Commission include the requirement for a very unique skill set, low salaries compared to the private sector, and competition with other employers for experienced new hires.

In response to a question from Representative Aull, Mr. Chandler said that, as a general matter, the commission would not get involved in private utility companies cutting down trees. He added that regarding any complaints filed with the commission, the party alleging the wrongdoing would have to prove that the practice was unreasonable according to statute for the commission to take action.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Boswell, Mr. Chandler said that the Public Service Commission does occasionally outsource legal work.

**The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2023.**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 A.M.