

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement**

### **Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2021 Interim**

**November 16, 2021**

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

The sixth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 9:00 AM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Michael J. Nemes, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Michael J. Nemes, Co-Chair; Representatives John Blanton, Co-Chair, and Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Robby Mills, Adrienne Southworth, and Reginald Thomas; Representatives Kevin D. Bratcher, Jeffery Donohue, Jim Gooch Jr., Derrick Graham, Adam Koenig, Michael Meredith, Suzanne Miles, Jerry T. Miller, Phillip Pratt, Nancy Tate, and Buddy Wheatley.

Guests: Tom McDaniel, Director, Division of Motor Carriers, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Mary Cook, Assistant Director, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC; Shellie Hampton, Director of Government Affairs, Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO); Keith Griffiee, Chief Financial Officer, Community Development Director, Bullitt County Fiscal Court; Bryanna Carroll, Director of Public Affairs, Kentucky League of Cities (KLC); Major Nathan Day, Director Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Kentucky State Police (KSP); Mary Pat Regan, Acting Secretary, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC); Michelle DeJohn, Executive Director, Employer and Apprenticeship Services, EWDC; Lori Stewart Gonzalez, Executive Vice President, University Provost, University of Louisville (UofL); and, Kyle Hurwitz, Director of Military Initiatives, Office of the President, UofL.

LRC Staff: Christa Burton, Emma Mills, Justin Perry, David Talley, and Spring Emerson.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Representative Koenig made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021

meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Bratcher, and was approved without objection by voice vote.

### **Overweight Vehicles**

Tom McDaniel and Mary Cook provided information on Overweight and Over-dimensional (OW-OD) vehicles.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Blanton regarding damage to bridges, Ms. Cook said the person hitting the bridge and causing the damage would be held responsible for the cost of necessary repairs.

In response to questions from Representative Graham regarding teleworking and job performance, Ms. Cook said some of the employees in their department are currently rotating three days in the office and teleworking two days each week. However, there are some positions with duties that require employees to be present in the office at all times. During the pandemic, there were approximately thirty percent in-house at all times, and now, approximately eighty percent of the employees are currently working in-house full-time. Teleworking is monitored, and the reports show there has been no decrease in performance. She added that the OW-OD staff could possibly telework all the time, due to the work being performed online.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes regarding vehicle permits, Ms. Cook said they are on file in their system, and can be accessed through use of the Open Records Act.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes regarding enforcement responsibilities, Ms. Cook said the KSP and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement largely enforce those commercial trucks; however, local law enforcement agencies also have authority. If a carrier is caught in violation of their permit, any enforcement agency has the authority to pull the permits to shut down the carrier until compliance is achieved.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes regarding collections for damages, Ms. Cook said she will check with the Bridge Preservation Office, who track that information. The requested information will be provided at a later date.

Ms. Hampton and Mr. Griffie provided information regarding the effects of OW-OD vehicles on county roads.

In response to a question from Representative Wheatley regarding the reason Bullitt County is undercounted in census data, Mr. Griffie said some of their population numbers were counted in the 2010 Census as being in Jefferson County, due to certain areas sharing the same zip code. In addition, Mt. Washington may have been

undercounted due to having very fast growth, as high as 98 percent. Mt. Washington could be the fastest-growing city in Kentucky.

In response to a question from Representative Donohue regarding the bond requirement for subdivisions, Ms. Hampton said there is a bond requirement, but there have been occasions when the subdivision was not completed.

Ms. Carroll provided testimony regarding the effects of OW-OD vehicles in cities. There were no questions.

Major Day provided information on the enforcement of laws applying to OW-OD vehicles. Any peace officer may enforce weight and dimension laws within their jurisdiction, if they believe a violation has taken place. If a violation has occurred, any officer may cause the excess load to be removed, and/or cite the driver for the violation. Refusal to be measured or weighed is also a violation. The person held responsible is the driver of the vehicle, who is the person operating the vehicle that is in violation of the law. Any member of the public can contact any law enforcement agency to request an investigation of potential weight or dimensional violations. Chair Nemes commented that the KSP are out on the expressways most of the time and they try to be available to assist inside counties and cities when requested; however, there is a lack of funding and manpower.

### **Employer and Apprenticeship Services**

Acting Secretary Regan and Ms. DeJohn provided information on the Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services (OEAS) within the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Representative Pratt expressed his appreciation and support for the Apprenticeship program.

Chair Nemes commented that the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) does a great job and he believes their services are underutilized. He asked if the plan is to move OEAS back into the Labor Cabinet, and Ms. Regan replied that they are looking at various options to become more efficient and streamline their processes to provide better services to citizens of the Commonwealth.

Chair Nemes asked about the temporary transfer of employees to Unemployment Insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. DeJohn said they have a dedicated staff who juggled their duties to help out during the pandemic, and were able to grow their programs during that time.

Chair Nemes inquired about the number of new programs and occupations, and how funds allotted by the General Assembly are used. He asked that the information be provided at a later date, due to time constraints.

In response to a question from Representative Graham regarding the number of teleworking employees in Frankfort, Ms. Regan said their office has had employees working in the office three days a week, and teleworking the other two days throughout the pandemic, and have continued that schedule successfully. She said they have been even more productive as a result. More information will be provided at a later date.

### **Military Connected Students**

Dr. Gonzalez and Mr. Hurwitz provided information on the Military Initiatives program offered at the University of Louisville. Representative Bratcher commented that this is a great opportunity for military connected students.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.