

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

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

### **Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2022 Interim**

**November 2, 2022**

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

The fifth 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 Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 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 Adrienne Southworth, Reginald Thomas, and Stephen West; Representatives Jeffery Donohue, Jim Gooch Jr., Derrick Graham, Mark Hart, Adam Koenig, Jerry T. Miller, Phillip Pratt, Josie Raymond, Nancy Tate, and Buddy Wheatley.

Guests: Will Metcalf, Associate Vice President, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Louisville (UofL); Adel Elmaghraby, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Speed School of Engineering, UofL; Andrew Wright, Assistant Professor and Chair, Information Systems, Analytics, and Operations, UofL; Rick Halbleib, President, Global Watchmen Associates; Brian Gupton, CEO, Dataseam; Captain Ryan Hogsten, Rescue Company #1, Lexington Fire Department, and Lt. Doug Hargraves, Executive Office of Special Operations, Lexington Fire Department.

LRC Staff: Emma Mills, Liz Columbia, Ethan Williams, and Spring Emerson.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Representative Gooch to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Tate, and the minutes were approved without objection.

### **Urban Search and Rescue**

Captain Hogsten and Lt. Hargraves joined Representatives Hart and Wheatley at the testimony table to provide information on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations in Kentucky. They emphasized the need for an organized All-Hazards Team that follows Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines.

Co-Chair Blanton commented that the search and rescue teams did outstanding work in Eastern Kentucky during the recent flooding, performing rescue operations in conjunction with the Kentucky Army National Guard. He said the USAR team is necessary.

Senator Thomas expressed his pride in the Lexington Fire Department, which is in his legislative district. He thanked them for their service to the area and agreed that implementation of these certified teams is necessary.

Representative Hart suggested that the program had not been implemented earlier due to budgetary constraints.

Representative Tate expressed her appreciation for the fire departments and the important work they do. She commented that, as a former disaster recovery manager for a large corporation, it was learned after the September 11, 2001 attacks that communication between federal, state, and local governments is a large factor to consider. There had been a breakdown in communication between the public and the private sector, which led to the implementation of the National Information Management System (NIMS), a communication and reporting mechanism that was supposed to have been adopted throughout private, public, local, state, and federal arenas. This program would be the beginning of that communication process, and she expressed her support for the proposed legislation.

### **University of Louisville – Regional Cybersecurity Center**

Representatives of UofL presented information relating to the Regional Cybersecurity Center.

In response to a question from Senator Southworth regarding the use of biometrics, Mr. Elmaghraby said it is strictly for security purposes and is only a small part of the National Security Agency (NSA) grant. Mr. Metcalf said they are very conscious of the ethics implications. Mr. Halbleib added that biometrics can be used in a careful way to deter illicit computer usage. According to the NSA, insider threats are the biggest problem.

In response to a question from Senator West regarding the use of state funds, Mr. Metcalf said the first funding would be used to hire staff to address the critical needs of the state. Mr. Halbleib said the state of Georgia has a similar program that is very successful in generating revenue and provides unbiased political advice through a three-way partnership.

In response to a question from Senator West regarding ethical issues involved with sharing information, Mr. Metcalf replied that grants require data use agreements that provide protection of the state's critical assets.

In response to a question from Representative Miller regarding how far behind Kentucky is, Mr. Metcalf said we are at the bottom of the list for federal funding. We would have to invest in the infrastructure now in order to compete on a national level.

In response to a question from Representative Koenig, Mr. Metcalf said demand for the plan already exists and there are over four thousand unfilled jobs at this time. Every company relies on technology now, which increases the demand for this plan. Mr. Halbleib added that the return on investment would involve metrics that affect a variety of sectors. One of the metrics to consider is the development of the workforce through educating our children, beginning in grades K-12, and on through high school. Another thing to consider is the attraction of new industry. The cybercenter in the state of Georgia is profitable now and no longer needs state funding.

In response to a question from Representative Graham regarding communication with K-12 students, Mr. Metcalf replied that exposure should be expanded. Mr. Elmaghraby said most of the NSA grant funds received so far have been used to train high school teachers. Mr. Metcalf added that these high school training programs are the pipeline to success. Not all cybersecurity jobs require college degrees, even though they are high-paying positions.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes regarding entities working at the center, Mr. Metcalf said it is important to attract the companies that are interested in being located at the site where connections can be made. Mr. Halbleib said states that have built cyber centers have learned that they quickly outgrew their spaces due to high demand. Demand will exceed capacity and the center will become self-sustaining. Chair Nemes said there are several entities that have already expressed interest in the new cybercenter.

### **Dataseam**

Mr. Gupton provided information on Dataseam – Research and Innovation through Education and Workforce Development.

Chair Nemes commented that the Registered Apprenticeship Program allows students to earn while they learn.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes regarding the contract with the Department of Education (KDE), Mr. Gupton said they had been advised by their attorneys not to sign the contract that was presented to them by the KDE.

In response to a question from Senator West regarding the problem with the contract, Mr. Gupton said the contract, as presented to them, was unconscionable due to a requirement relating to assignment of copyrights that they cannot adhere to.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.