

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, PERSONNEL, AND PUBLIC RETIREMENT

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

October 15, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement was held on October 15, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Freeland, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Chris Freeland, Co-Chair; Senator Scott Madon, Co-Chair; Representative Walker Thomas, Co-Chair; Senator Michael J. Nemes; Representatives Patrick Flannery, David Hale, Erika Hancock, and Mark Hart.

Guests: Robert Duncan, Deputy Attorney General, Richard Ferretti, Commissioner, Department of Criminal Investigations, Office of the Attorney General; Jennie Wolfe, Executive Director; and Jessica Pinkston, Staff Assistant.

LRC Staff: Heather Keene, Justin Perry, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Approval of Minutes (August 20 and September 17, 2025)

Due to an unmet quorum, the approval was passed to the next meeting.

Update on the Child Exploitation Specialized Investigation and Prosecution Unit Included in the 2024 RS HB 6

Robert Duncan, Deputy Attorney General of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), provided a brief update on the Child Exploitation Specialized Investigation and Prosecution Unit, which is included in the 2024 RS HB 6.

In response to questions from Co-Chair Madon, Mr. Duncan stated Kentucky is one of two states pursuing a civil lawsuit against Roblox. The Kentucky OAG's lawsuit alleges that Roblox knowingly enabled and facilitated the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Kentucky River Authority (KRA) Update on Lock and Dam Repairs Included in the 2024 RS HB 6

Jennie Wolfe, Executive Director, provided an update on the lock and dam repairs included

in the 2024 RS HB 6.

In response to Representative Hale's questions, Ms. Wolfe clarified that the KRA operates independently from the Army Corps of Engineers. She explained that the properties related to these projects were transferred to Kentucky, and permits are obtained through both the Kentucky Division of Water and the Army Corps of Engineers. Construction is permitted from April to November to avoid conflicts with winter flooding and fish spawning seasons.

In response to Co-Chair Thomas's questions, Ms. Wolfe said KRA is not involved with the Army Corps of Engineers' project at Kentucky Dam.

In response to Representative Hancock's questions, Ms. Wolfe indicated that the locks between Frankfort and Carrollton were closed due to flooding in April 2025. They reopened on October 1, 2025, and have remained open every year from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend until October 31 for the past 10 years.

In response to Co-Chair Madon's questions, Ms. Wolfe explained that engineers went out with divers to assess the leakage at Dam 7. The engineering firm is responsible for securing the construction permits, while the KRA secures the channel maintenance permits. She added that Samantha Vogeler, the Environmental Control Supervisor with the Department for Environmental Protection, assists KRA with the channel maintenance permits.

In response to Co-Chair Freeland's question, Ms. Wolfe stated KRA has nine employees, including the five lockmasters.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 AM.