

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2019 Interim

November 19, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 8:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Whitney Westerfield called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senators Denise Harper Angel and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives Angie Hatton, Nima Kulkarni, and Jason Petrie.

Guests: Laura Sudkamp, Lab Director, Forensic Laboratory System, Kentucky State Police; and Heather Wagers, Legislative Liaison, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Savannah Wiley, and Benjamin Thompson

Update on the Rape Test Kit Backlog

Ms. Sudkamp provided an update on the Rape Test Kit Backlog and an overview of the Kentucky State Police Crime Lab.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Ms. Sudkamp stated that every time a report is written counts as an assignment. Ms. Sudkamp said that each case consists of two assignments on average.

In response to questions from Representative Petrie, Ms. Sudkamp noted that she believes the number of assignments will continue to increase, though she does not believe the number of cases will continue to double every four years. Ms. Sudkamp noted that there are 10 employees earning an entry level salary, while each paygrade receives a five percent increase in salary.

In response to a question from Senator Harper Angel, Ms. Sudkamp said that all new employees have received the extra \$4,000 in their salary, but that it is not standard and she has had to request the increased salary for each hire. Ms. Sudkamp stated that Rapid DNA testing chips cost about \$1,100 each. A chip can run four DNA samples at a time.

Ms. Sudkamp noted that lab technicians can run the Rapid DNA testing machines, so a biologist is not needed.

In response to questions from Representative Petrie, Ms. Sudkamp stated that if Rapid DNA produces a genetic profile, it is highly reliable. Ms. Sudkamp noted that the Rapid DNA testing machine consumes every part of a sample that is used. Ms. Sudkamp said that the Rapid DNA testing machine has a procedure to run through every day to ensure it is working properly.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 AM.