

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 11, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 1 p.m. in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Scott Sharp, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Scott Sharp, Co-Chair; Senators Gerald A. Neal, Matt Nunn, Aaron Reed, Reginald L. Thomas, and Phillip Wheeler; Representatives John Blanton, Lindsey Burke, Adrielle Camuel, Matt Lockett, and Tom Smith.

Guests: Brandon Marshall, statewide interoperability coordinator, Kentucky State Police; Zach Ramsey, director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Margaret Ivey, general counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts; Daniel Sturtevant, data officer, Administrative Office of the Courts; Allison Brown, assistant general counsel, Department of Corrections.

LRC Staff: Committee Staff Administrator William Spears; Committee Analysts Jacob Blevins, Austin Fraley, Christopher T. Hall, Taylor Johnston, Jonathan Rickett, Austin Sprinkles, Shane Stevens, Joel S. Thomas, and Holly Tracy; and Research Assistant Maegan Mohr.

Approve Minutes from August 29, 2025

Upon motion by Representative Lockett and second by Senator Nunn the minutes for the August 29, 2025, meeting were approved without objection.

Moment of Silence

Representative Sharp discussed the anniversary of September 11, 2001 and requested a moment of silence.

Statewide Emergency Responder Voice System Monthly Update

Brandon Marshall, statewide interoperability coordinator for the Kentucky State Police, gave an update on the progress of the Statewide Emergency Responder Voice System (SERVS). He spoke about upgrades to the Kentucky Emergency Wireless System (KEWS), router replacements, microwave station replacements, as well as projected plans for SERVS over the next 30 days. Mr. Marshall's full presentation is available on the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee webpage.

In response to a question from Senator Wheeler about using satellite technology for the statewide system, Mr. Marshall answered that satellite signals only work when there is a direct line of sight to the transmitter, making it incompatible with using radios indoors.

In response to a question from Senator Thomas regarding coverage in eastern Kentucky, Mr. Marshall said that Kentucky State Police posts 8, 11, and 14 would be finished by 2026 while the areas further east would require additional funding from the next budget cycle.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Marshall responded that capital funds from previous budget cycles had to be reallocated for construction, leading to the need for more funds to finish the project in the eastern part of the state.

In response to a question from Representative Smith, Mr. Marshall confirmed that he does not work directly with the construction contracts, only the planning surrounding construction. The responsibility for construction contracts belongs to the Division of Engineering and Contract Administration.

Shock Probation: Administrative Office of the Courts

Zach Ramsey, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); Daniel Sturtevant, data officer, AOC; and Margaret Ivey, general counsel of AOC presented an overview of the role of shock probation in Kentucky's court system. Mr. Ramsey discussed a collection of data regarding shock probation, which is available on the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee webpage.

In response to a question from Senator Wheeler, Mr. Ramsey answered that he did not have data on which judges were more likely to grant shock probation. In response to questions from Senator Wheeler concerning recidivism rates for individuals granted shock probation, Mr. Ramsey said that parole violation data resides with the Department of Corrections and that AOC would only have data if the individual came back through the court system. Mr. Ramsey said that data about a judge's actions was important, but AOC has not had the occasion to compile that data. Kentucky's official court records are still physical copies, not digital.

Senator Thomas said shock probation was a useful tool for Kentucky courts and has seen it used for his clients where there was no recidivism.

Mr. Ramsey clarified that AOC is the administrative arm of the Kentucky court system and that they do not investigate or oversee the conduct of judges nor do they have any regulatory authority. They provide their data to oversight agencies as appropriate, however.

In response to a question from Representative Blanton, Mr. Ramsey said that they had not calculated recidivism rates of individuals who are granted shock probation, but they may be able to calculate it. In response to a follow up question from Representative Blanton, Ms. Ivey said that there was no statute keeping an individual who violated their shock probation from filing for and receiving shock probation again.

In response to a question from Representative Lockett, Mr. Ramsey answered that AOC did not have enough data to analyze why circuit criminal charges and cases were decreasing over a 3-year period.

In response to a question from Senator Nunn, Mr. Ramsey said data exists to distinguish if an individual who received shock probation following a non-violent charge went on to commit a violent crime.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Sturtevant explained that the information in AOC's and the Department of Corrections (DOC) databases is currently incomparable but streamlining the data to be comparable would be beneficial. The 2023 effort to restructure AOC's data with KYSTATS and DOC was more complicated than they had originally believed and the project moved down the priority list as a result.

Representative Smith requested shock probation data by circuit courts and added that he thought shock probation was an important tool for judges. He also requested incarceration rates from across the state, including private prisons. The AOC representatives agreed to both requests.

Representative Burke seconded Representative Blanton's request for the circuit court shock probation data and asked for further elaboration of the number of convictions as well as utilization of shock probation in order to ascertain percentages by circuit.

Shock Probation: Department of Corrections Oversight

Allison Brown, assistant general counsel for the Department of Corrections presented an overview of shock probation from the point of view of the DOC. She reviewed the process of probation, specifically shock probation and its intended outcome.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp regarding the data spreadsheet provided by LOIC staff, Ms. Brown answered that *ISC* stood for Interstate Compact, referring to the law that directs the process of individuals on parole leaving Kentucky and going to another state, as well as individuals on parole from other states coming to Kentucky. In response to questions from Representative Sharp, Ms. Brown said that they only have data after an individual is assigned parole from the courts and is released into their custody. Probation length varies up to 5 years based on the discretion of the granting judge. Probation requirements follow general provision of supervision unless a judge orders alternative provisions based on individual cases.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Senator Wheeler and second by Senator Thomas, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.