

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

## **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2024 Interim**

**August 22, 2024**

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

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on August 22, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Kentucky State Fair. Senator John Schickel, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Senator John Schickel Co-Chair; Representative Matthew Koch Co-Chair; Senators Julie Raque Adams, Donald Douglas, Denise Harper Angel, Jason Howell, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, and Michael J. Nemes; Representatives Kevin D. Bratcher, Emily Callaway, Mike Clines, Jonathan Dixon, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Thomas Huff, Tom Smith, and Killian Timoney.

Guests: James Tipton, State Representative; Whitney Dudley, MHA, RD, LD, FAND, Consumer Protection Coordinator, Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; John Holder, Chairman, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services; Eddie Slone, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services; Mary Harville, President & CEO, Kentucky Lottery Corporation; and Maggie Garrison, Chief Financial Officer, Kentucky Lottery Corporation.

LRC Staff: Bryce Amburgey, Wendy Craig, CaraBell Preece, Jasmine Williams, and Lisa W. Moore.

### **Approval of Minutes of the July 31, 2024, Meeting**

Representative Flannery motioned to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2024, meeting. Representative Callaway seconded the motion. Motion carried and the minutes were adopted by voice vote.

### **Dietitian Licensure Compact**

James Tipton, State Representative, referred members to his proposed bill draft for the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The Council of State Governments (CSG) facilitated the development of this Dietitian Licensure Compact model legislation. Each state must enact the model legislation to join the compact. Supporters may advocate for

the compact by contacting the state chapter or national office of their professional membership association and the state legislature.

Whitney Dudley, MHA, RD, LD, FAND, Consumer Protection Coordinator, Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, said interstate occupational licensure compacts, like the Dietitian Licensure Compact, are constitutionally authorized, legally binding, legislatively enacted contracts among states. There are 111,000 registered dietitians in the United States who are limited to providing services within the state where they are licensed. The Dietitian Licensure Compact seeks to provide licensees with opportunities for multistate practice, increase mobility for individuals who are relocating, improve public safety, and promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

Chairman Schickel said it is important to balance state sovereignty with protecting the industry nationally.

### **EMS Staffing**

John Holder, Chairman, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, said staffing shortages persist for providers in Kentucky, particularly in rural areas. Twenty-one percent of prehospital providers will not renew their license in Kentucky. The number of newly certified paramedics is less than the number who leave the workforce. There are now 31,006 more annual requests for ambulance transport than five years ago.

Mr. Holder said compensation is one of the top reasons EMS clinicians are leaving the field. Ambulances are often not reimbursed for services unless a patient is transported to a hospital. Sixty-three percent of runs are Medicaid/Medicare claims and will not be fully reimbursed. EMS has one of the highest rates of injuries and illnesses, and clinicians experience high rates of behavioral and mental health conditions. There is a shortage of qualified trainers and training sites across the state, particularly for paramedics and advanced emergency medical technicians in Western and Eastern Kentucky. Expansion of the methods and amounts of reimbursement for EMS may improve the quality of services by increasing the ability of EMS providers to provide appropriate care. Limited reimbursement creates a significant shortfall for EMS services and the costs of EMS services per response often exceed the resulting compensation. Limited funds are being used to offset increasing equipment and operating costs. There is no funding for additional education opportunities or increasing wages.

Mr. Holder said improvement initiatives have been implemented to address the EMS workforce challenges. Kentucky providers decreased the initial requirements for EMS education, removed the licensing fees for newly certified providers, opened reciprocity for providers moving from other states, and decreased the number of advanced providers required to maintain ALS coverage. Goals for improvement include increasing

reimbursement for services in order to increase wages, positively impacting both recruitment and retention, as well as expanding accessibility and decreasing response/wait times. Another goal is to secure funding for additional training sites and student scholarships to expand educational opportunities, specifically in underserved rural areas.

Responding to a question from Chairman Schickel, Mr. Holder said House Bill 484 of the 2024 Regular Session created paramedic scholarships and established additional training centers, but was not funded. Mr. Eddie Slone, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Emergency Services, said city ambulances are reimbursed per run by state/federal government Medicare/Medicaid programs. Chairman Schickel said baby boomers are aging and retiring, using more EMS services, thus creating staff shortages.

Responding to a question from Senator Douglas, Mr. Holder said 110 paramedics are trained per year, and Kentucky providers will lose more than that in attrition. He also said 56 of the 110 will go to work in Lexington, Louisville, or Northern Kentucky, thus creating additional staffing shortages in rural areas. Mr. Slone said there is no study that can predict exact staffing shortages, but there are only about 1,500 paramedics outside of the three major cities providing EMS services to the rest of the state. Chairman Schickel said Kentucky needs less costly healthcare alternatives as it is very expensive to call 911 for all medical incidents.

### **Kentucky Lottery Corporation Updates**

Maggie Garrison, Chief Financial Officer, Kentucky Lottery Corporation, said the Kentucky Lottery Commission had record sales of almost \$2.1 billion in fiscal year 2024. There were also record prizes paid to players of \$1.5 billion, record low operating expenses as a percent of sales (1.9 percent), and record cash transfers to the state of \$404.4 million.

Mary Harville, President & CEO, Kentucky Lottery Corporation (KLC), thanked Chairman Schickel for his years of service and support of the KLC. She explained that the lottery funded scholarship and grant programs administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), College Access Program (CAP), Kentucky Tuition Grants (KTG), Work-Ready Kentucky Scholarship, Dual Credit Scholarship, National Guard Tuition Award, and the Teachers' Scholarship Program.

Ms. Garrison discussed goals for fiscal year 2025. Kentucky is on track for sales over \$2 billion this year, resulting in cash transfers to the the state of \$360 million to the General Fund (from operations) and \$10.6 million to the KEES Reserve (from estimated unclaimed prizes). Funding education continues to be a top goal for the KLC.

Ms. Harville discussed some new games and a partnership with the Kentucky Distillers'

Association to sell a bourbon-themed lottery scratch off game. Members viewed a work ready scholarship video that demonstrated how KLC uses lottery dollars to help young people train for work in specific trades instead of attending college. Lottery games are now sold in all 120 Kentucky counties.

Chairman Schickel said home schooled students should be able to access KEES scholarship funding and he hopes this inequity will be rectified in the future.

Responding to a question from Representative Flannery, Ms. Harville said the work ready program is administered through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and may be combined with the dual credit program in high school. A student must enroll through an application process, as participation is not automatic. The KHEAA is responsible for specifics on how students may enroll in the program in high school.

Representative Timoney said lottery sales are outstanding. He said the KLC should add "scratch and sniff" tickets for bourbon lottery tickets.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.