

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim

June 18, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on June 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM in the Madison Events Center Emerald Ballroom in Covington, KY. Senator Julie Raque Adams, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Julie Raque Adams, Co-Chair; Representative Matthew Koch, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Christian McDaniel, Stephen Meredith, Michael J. Nemes, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives Chad Aull, Kim Banta, Emily Callaway, Mike Clines, Stephanie Dietz, Anne Gay Donworth, Patrick Flannery, Tony Hampton, Kevin Jackson, Nima Kulkarni, Michael Meredith, Rebecca Raymer, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Brian Miller, Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky; Matt Mains, Chairman, Building Industry Association Land Development Council; Representative Kim Moser; and Dr. Dale Bertram, Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, Campbellsville University.

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

Northern Kentucky Economic Presentation

Brian Miller, Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky, noted Northern Kentucky families continue to struggle with affordable housing. He highlighted income-aligned housing and construction workforce availability as two possible solutions to offset increased housing regulatory costs. Strategic workforce investments can stabilize the local labor market, prevent wage inflation, and help meet Kentucky's demand for skilled trades. Mr. Miller said Kentucky's skilled trade labor outlook over the next decade shows steady demand, with thousands of job openings across key occupations. Demand is concentrated in Kentucky's major metro areas. The state is expected to need hundreds of new carpenters, electricians, plumbers, welders, HVAC installers, mechanics, and masons. Public schools and instructor pathways can facilitate the fast track certification of licensed tradespeople. He stated dual credit has saved money by training workers in

high school, but apprenticeships should be expanded. Mr. Miller highlighted that state and federal workforce incentive grants can help cover tuition for low-income students and a statewide workforce fund can be created.

Matt Mains, Chairman, Building Industry Association Land Development Council, said modest increases in the cost of a new home can price out hundreds or thousands of Kentucky households in various metropolitan areas. Regulatory cost increases, even when individually small, have a disproportionate impact on housing affordability across the state. He noted a \$1,000 increase in home prices renders approximately 2,532 additional households unable to afford a median-priced new home. This underscores the urgent need to address regulatory burdens and development delays that inflate home prices.

Chair Raque Adams said first-time home buyers cannot afford to buy a home in the Louisville and Northern Kentucky housing markets, and she appreciates efforts to ensure affordable housing. Across Kentucky, skilled trades will continue to offer plentiful opportunities. Policymakers and training programs can use projections to ensure a pipeline of qualified workers, particularly in metro hubs, to meet Kentucky's construction and maintenance workforce needs over the decade.

Responding to Senator Douglas, Mr. Miller said regulation costs are divided pretty equally in thirds between local, state, and federal regulations. Local regulations attribute to about \$25,000 in costs per each new home construction. Building codes are no longer just about safety, but are evolving to address the need for higher performance and sustainability in the built environment. Housing affordability should allow young families to move out of starter homes, and let baby boomers downsize. Building starter homes are no longer profitable for construction businesses.

Responding to Representative Aull, Mr. Means said an efficient system should be established to process building permits and approve plans to avoid costly delays. In Northern Kentucky, local water divisions are approving plans and communicating with local municipalities to speed up approval processes by 30-45 days.

Responding to Representative Kulkarni, Mr. Miller said local building industries are analyzing code reforms to utilize new technologies, innovations, and engineering to cut costs. Mandates are constantly reviewed for redundancy and necessity.

Responding to Senator Berg, Mr. Means said profit margins include business overhead costs and are difficult to calculate. He said companies do not want to sacrifice the quality of new homes, and it is not feasible to keep safety and quality in building homes under \$350,000. Mr. Miller said the building industry wants to construct missing middle housing, but innovative solutions are needed.

Marriage and Family Therapist Licensing

Representative Moser said 2025 Regular Session House Bill 79 would allow licensed out-of-state marriage and family therapists to practice in Kentucky if they meet all requirements, including completion of postgraduate work. Dr. Dale Bertram, Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, Campbellsville University, said Kentucky is facing a shortage of marriage and family therapists, which can cause gaps in service, particularly in rural areas. He does not feel the legislation would diminish the quality of new professionals. Surrounding states have addressed shortages through similar cost-cutting legislation.

Healthcare Workforce Data Reporting

Representative Moser said Kentucky faces many shortages in the healthcare field. 2025 Regular Session House Bill 79 would allow the Council on Postsecondary Education to collect healthcare workforce data to provide a snapshot of Kentucky's medical needs, and track licensees and their employment data.

Senator Nemes expressed concern that healthcare workforce data reporting and marriage and family therapists are in the same legislation.

Senator Berg said Kentucky residents who are licensed in the healthcare field have been denied opportunities for employment in Kentucky, but can work across the river in Indiana. Representative Moser explained that data reporting will create consistency by collecting the same information from all licensing boards.

Responding to Representative Donworth, Representative Moser said the statute only requires collection of data for licensure, and this bill will create tracking consistency.

Occupational Board Update

Co-Chair Koch said various occupational boards will be presenting to the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations during the interim. He encouraged committee members to learn about various occupational boards in efforts to establish better working relationships between the boards and the committee.

Representative Banta said legislators and board members should work closely together. She has been communicating with the Kentucky Board of Architects, who have expressed that Kentucky needs more architects. She also said approval for new licenses only takes seven to ten days if participants meet the other requirements.

Chair Raque Adams said some occupational boards have too few resources, while others have too many. A board may need modernization and assistance with statutory or regulatory issues. She encouraged members to let Co-Chair Koch know if there are boards

they are interested in working with.

Announcements

Chair Raque Adams announced there will be no more meeting folders prepared for meetings held in Frankfort.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.