

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

November 20, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on November 20, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Matthew Koch, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Matthew Koch, Co-Chair; Senator Julie Raque Adams, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Jimmy Higdon, Jason Howell, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Stephen Meredith, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives Chad Aull, Kim Banta, Emily Callaway, Mike Clines, Stephanie Dietz, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Tony Hampton, Thomas Huff, Kevin Jackson, Amy Neighbors, Rebecca Raymer, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Stephanie Czuhajewski, Executive Director, Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA); Dr. Liz Rogers, Past President, Kentucky Academy of Audiology (KAA); Elizabeth Morgan, R.T. (R), Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (KBMIRT); Representative Steve Bratcher; Tamara G. McDaniel, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care (KBRC); Stephanie Brothers, Director of Clinical Education for Respiratory Care, Elizabethtown Community College (ECC); Dr. Carl Mahan, respiratory therapist, University of Louisville (UofL); Jamie Eads, President/CEO, Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation (KHRGC); Ashleigh Bailey, Chief Legal Officer, KHRGC; and Drew Connors, Director of Incentives and Development, KHRGC.

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

Approval of the October 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Co-Chair Raque Adams and seconded by Senator Douglas to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Audiologists

Stephanie Czuhajewski, Executive Director, ADA, and Dr. Liz Rogers, Past President, KAA, provided an update on the Kentucky Audiology Practice Act. There are approximately

15,000 practicing audiologists in the United States, including 320 in Kentucky. Audiologists work in a variety of different practice settings, including private practice clinics, hospitals, military clinics, schools, universities, and industrial settings. Audiologists help develop professional standards for audiologic health care and are represented on the boards of state and national governmental agencies.

Ms. Czuhajewski said the proposed legislation, sponsored by Representative Duvall, takes a conservative approach to modernizing Kentucky's audiology statute to conform with contemporary clinical practices, national standards, and federal and state regulations. The proposed legislation will codify several accepted parts of audiology practice. Dr. Rogers said Kentucky law should reduce wait times and transportation issues for patients. Audiologists are critical in identifying, evaluating, diagnosing, managing, and treating hearing and balance disorders, and identifying conditions that require a referral to a medical doctor or another specialist.

Chair Koch encouraged conversations between the audiologists and the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA).

Responding to Senator Douglas, Ms. Czuhajewski said audiologists ordering radiographic imaging, cultures, and bloodwork will speed up test results and improve patient outcomes. States that have incorporated these changes have saved time, money, and patient lives.

Responding to Senator Berg, Dr. Rogers said it is the audiologist's responsibility to follow and report patient test results if they order the imaging. The audiologist should review the radiologist's report and follow-up with the patient and the primary care provider and make any necessary referrals.

Licensing MRI Technologists and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

Representative Neighbors and Elizabeth Morgan, R.T. (R), Executive Director, KBMIRT, updated the committee on the licensing of MRI technologists and diagnostic medical sonographers. Representative Neighbors said her proposed legislation will modernize statutes governing the KBMIRT, the body responsible for licensing professionals who perform medical imaging, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy procedures. The purpose of the legislation is to promote effective administration and government efficiency, while protecting patient health and safety by regulating practice.

Ms. Morgan said Kentucky does not require licensing for medical imaging technicians or diagnostic medical sonographers. The proposed bill closes the gap, ensuring every professional who performs diagnostic imaging is licensed and held to the same competency standards; includes a transition period through January 1, 2028, to allow technicians to become licensed without disruption to their employment or patient services;

requires national credentialing for new applicants, aligning Kentucky with other states that licenses these professions; and increases the board membership from nine to 11 to reflect the two new licensed professions, ensuring all imaging disciplines have a voice in policy making and professional oversight.

Responding to Chair Koch, Ms. Morgan said there are no standards in Kentucky for MRI or sonography technicians. There is national accreditation for those professions that Kentucky would recognize for licensure. She noted eight other states have credentials for MRI technicians, and five states have credentials for ultrasound sonographers.

Responding to Representative Banta, Ms. Morgan said there is a \$100 license fee. If someone is licensed, no additional fees will be required.

Responding to Senator Berg, Ms. Morgan said an associate's degree and a certification exam are required to be a MRI technician. Senator Berg expressed concern that the new requirement will exacerbate the sonographer shortage, particularly in rural areas. Ms. Morgan said the KBMIRT feels the certification will strengthen technicians and increase patient safety.

Responding to Senator Meredith, Ms. Morgan said 800 MRI technicians and 1,600 sonographers are licensed in Kentucky. She will provide data on how many technicians are not certified with a rural and urban breakdown.

Respiratory Care Interstate Compact

Representative Bratcher; Tamara G. McDaniel, Executive Director, KBRC; and Stephanie Brothers, Director of Clinical Education for Respiratory Care, ECC, provided an update on the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact (RCIC). Representative Bratcher said the RCIC is an interstate licensure agreement that allows respiratory therapists who hold an active, unencumbered license in one member state to practice in other member states through a "compact privilege." The compact reduces licensing barriers while preserving each state's authority to regulate the practice of respiratory care and protect public safety.

Ms. Brothers said the RCIC strengthens patient access, workforce mobility, and emergency readiness, while maintaining state oversight and public safety. By joining the RCIC, Kentucky would help ensure highly qualified respiratory therapists can deliver care wherever patients need it most.

Ms. McDaniel said respiratory therapists are highly-trained healthcare professionals who specialize in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients with heart and lung disorders. The RCIC makes it easier for qualified respiratory therapists, including those who are military or in military families, to move, work, and provide care across state lines safely and efficiently.

The RCIC is modeled after other successful healthcare compacts such as those for nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and physicians. It enhances data sharing among states for licensure and disciplinary actions. The Department of Defense supports the RCIC to improve license portability for military families.

Responding to Chair Koch, Ms. McDaniel said four states have joined the interstate compact, and it is under consideration in many of Kentucky's surrounding states. She noted seven states should be ready to form the compact in 2026. Chair Koch supports compacts and their benefit for Kentuckians. Dr. Carl Mahan, respiratory therapist, testified in support of the RCIC. He said the compact removes barriers and helps managers and applicants fill positions and address job shortages.

Board of Licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists Update

Representative Dietz provided the committee an update on the Board of Licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists. Chair Koch thanked the members for their board updates and said the committee will continue strengthening its relationships with the boards next year.

Kentucky Horse Racing & Gaming Corporation

810 KAR 007:060 *Proposed* - Kentucky Paint Horse, Appaloosa, and Arabian Development Fund.

Jamie Eads, President/CEO, KHRGC; Ashleigh Bailey, Chief Legal Officer, KHRGC; and Drew Connors, Director of Incentives and Development, KHRGC, explained the administrative regulation and answered questions from members. Representative Hampton motioned to approve the amendment and Co-Chair Raque Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried and the administrative regulation, as amended, was adopted by voice vote.

810 KAR 007:080 *Proposed* - Kentucky Quarter Horse Development Fund.

Mr. Eads, Ms. Bailey, and Mr. Connors explained the administrative regulation and answered questions from members.

Adjournment

With no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.