

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, OCCUPATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 17, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations was held on September 17, 2026, at 11:00 AM ET/10:00 AM CT 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 Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Jimmy Higdon, Jason Howell, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Stephen Meredith, Michael J. Nemes, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives Emily Callaway, Stephanie Dietz, Anne Gay Donworth, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Tony Hampton, Samara Heavrin, Thomas Huff, Kevin Jackson, Nima Kulkarni, Michael Meredith, Amy Neighbors, Rebecca Raymer, Tom Smith, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Brad Bonds, Co-founder; Shannon Smith, Co-founder, Revival Vintage Bottle Shop & Bar; Michelle M. Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance; Aaron Thompson, State Representative; Tamara G. McDaniel, Executive Director; and Morgan Ransdell, General Counsel, Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care.

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

Approval of Minutes of the August 27, 2026, Meeting

A motion was made by Co-Chair Adams and seconded by Senator Douglas to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Vintage Distilled Spirits

Representative Dietz explained the proposed legislative bill draft. She noted Revival Vintage Bottle Shop is a specialty retail store and tasting bar in Covington, Kentucky, specializing in rare and vintage bourbons and other spirits. Co-founders Brad Bonds and Shannon Smith founded the establishment in late 2019 and uses a 2018 Kentucky law

permitting the resale of pre-owned sealed bottles to offer one of the largest selections of vintage distilled spirits available.

Representative Dietz said the Kentucky vintage distilled spirits law enables licensed retailers, including bottle shops like Revival Vintage Bottle Shop, to acquire unopened distilled spirits packages directly from private sellers rather than through licensed distributors. Package sales are capped to prevent commercial flipping, with violations punishable under KRS 243.990, including fines or license revocation.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Bonds described their changes providing sufficient safeguards for legitimate transactions, and avoiding overregulation. Ms. Smith said it is difficult to remain competitive as the only alcoholic beverage tier that is not allowed to ship its products.

Chair Koch agreed it is reasonable to have a conversation to revisit the law regarding vintage distilled spirits. He said a balance is needed to help licensed retailers, but not abusers of laws.

Responding to Senator Douglas, Ms. Smith said one package is equal to one bottle. There are only 24 bottles, or packages, allowed to be purchased in a 12-month period.

Responding to Senator Higdon regarding licensing fees, Ms. Smith said a supplementary vintage distilled spirits license costs \$300 annually, while the various retail package licenses are typically \$5,000.

Chair Koch said the definition of a vintage distilled spirit is in the bill draft if members would like to review.

Occupational Licensing Background Checks

Michelle Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance, provided an update on the implementation of 2026 RS HB 657 and HB 36, four of the 6 licensing boards in the legislation have received their FBI Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) numbers and listed a service code from the Kentucky State Police. The boards have instructed licensee applicants to complete their background and fingerprint checks to fulfill licensing requirements.

Ms. Sanborn provided recommendations for future background check legislation, including the addition of a delayed effective date.

Representative Dietz thanked Ms. Sanborn for her work on the matter and for addressing the issues for the licensees.

Respiratory Care

Representative Thompson, Tamara McDaniel, Executive Director, and Morgan Ransdell, General Counsel, Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care, discussed 2027 RS draft legislation addressing the growing need for specialized cardiopulmonary providers in Kentucky's healthcare system. Representative Thompson said the primary component of the legislation is to create an advanced practice respiratory therapy (APRT) license. By 2030, it is estimated there will be a shortage of cardiologists and pulmonologists in the United States.

Ms. McDaniel said Kentucky has one of the highest lung disease rates in the nation and Kentucky citizens struggle to find specialized care for lung health needs.

Ms. McDaniel said respiratory therapist employment is growing much faster than average, and apprenticeships speed up entry into these roles. Apprenticeships help non-traditional and underrepresented students enter healthcare fields and remove financial barriers by allowing them to earn wages while they learn.

Mr. Ransdell noted the passage of the respiratory interstate compact bill in the 2026 RS brought Kentucky into compliance with other states. He discussed the 2027 RS draft legislation regarding general housekeeping amendments, including additions, changes or clarifications to suspension, reactivation, reinstatement, a statutory civil penalty cap, and other disciplinary changes.

Responding to Senator Berg, Ms. McDaniel said APRTs will assist with physician practices in rural areas. Representative Thompson explained the scope of practice of the APRT role. Senator Berg is concerned with the additional duties of APRTs.

Senator Douglas is offended to hear respiratory specialists are performing advanced lung techniques. He cautioned increased scrutiny while proceeding with the bill. Ms. McDaniel clarified that respiratory therapists are uniquely trained and qualified in cardiopulmonary diseases.

Responding to Representative Raymer, Ms. McDaniel said several other states are introducing similar legislation. Representative Raymer has concerns with the legislation.

Responding to Representative Donworth, Representative Thompson said they have been meeting with the Kentucky Medical Association since September 2025, and will continue

working with them to agree on language. Representative Donworth has concerns with expanding scopes of practice for various professions, and said it should be limited to respiratory issues only.

Responding to Senator Higdon, Mr. Ransdell said restricted funds, not taxpayer funds, would be used to raise board member compensation.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.