

# INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

## Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2019 Interim

November 18, 2019

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 3:00 PM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Ernie Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll. Minutes of the Committee's September 30, 2019 meeting were approved.

Present were:

Members: Senator Ernie Harris, Co-Chair; Representative Ken Upchurch, Co-Chair; Senators Ralph Alvarado, Perry B. Clark, C.B. Embry Jr., Jimmy Higdon, Paul Hornback, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Albert Robinson, Brandon Smith, Johnny Ray Turner, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Terri Branham Clark, Randy Bridges, Chris Fugate, Al Gentry, Robert Goforth, David Hale, Chris Harris, Kathy Hinkle, Thomas Huff, Derek Lewis, Savannah Maddox, Bobby McCool, Russ A. Meyer, Charles Miller, Sal Santoro, Maria Sorolis, Cherlynn Stevenson, Jim Stewart III, Ashley Tackett Laferty, and Walker Thomas.

Guests: Matt Henderson, Commissioner, Department of Vehicle Regulation, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)

LRC Staff: John Snyder, Brandon White, Dana Fugazzi, and Christina Williams

### REAL ID

Matt Henderson, Commissioner, Department of Vehicle Regulation, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) updated the Committee on the Cabinet's new approach to issuing REAL ID-compliant licenses and ID cards, which will eliminate involvement of the Circuit Clerks and issue these documents through regional Cabinet offices. The KYTC opened a regional office concept location at their main office for Franklin County residents in September, 2019. He added that there was expanded REAL ID access to Anderson County residents on October 8, 2019, and there is expected expansion to Scott County residents which will eventually expand to surrounding counties.

Commissioner Henderson stated that as of November 1, more than 3,500 Kentuckians have applied for REAL ID compliant credentials. The Cabinet has worked with its 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor, IDEMIA Security Company to fix previous issuance speed issues. Currently transaction times average eight to 10 minutes. Mr. Henderson stated the list of

acceptable documentation has expanded for Kentuckians applying for a first time REAL ID compliant credential.

In moving forward, KYTC has staffed regional offices to ensure citizens across the state have the opportunity to obtain a REAL ID compliant credential before the October 2020 federal enforcement date. To accelerate the process and minimize expenses, the Cabinet focused on identifying existing state buildings rather than pursuing new construction. Also, using KYTC field offices that were already staffed was prioritized. Other considerations included drive times, capacity, parking, and accessibility.

A map was provided to the Committee of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway Districts to showcase district locations of citizens being able to obtain their REAL ID compliant licenses. Those cities include Paducah, Madisonville, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville, Covington, Lexington, Somerset, Flemingsburg, Jackson, Manchester, and Pikeville. Commissioner Henderson stated that hired and trained staff are being utilized to serve at these regional locations. The necessity remains for legislative action to formalize the issuance transition from Circuit Court Clerks to KYTC.

In response to a question asked by Senator C.B. Embry concerning the expansion of identification needed to obtain a REAL ID, Commissioner Henderson stated the easiest way to obtain the list of acceptable identification is to visit [www.drive.ky.gov](http://www.drive.ky.gov).

Senator Stephen Meredith stated his concern and surprise that only 27% nationwide have complied with REAL ID considering the deadline is fast approaching. In response to Senator Meredith, Commissioner Henderson stated that other states have had the same or similar issues that Kentucky has with getting REAL ID implemented and to have their citizens compliant. The REAL ID law was passed 15 years ago, and there have been extensive issues being able to implement it nationwide.

In response to a second question by Senator Meredith concerning if a Kentucky resident must apply for a REAL ID in their designated region, or if they are able to obtain it anywhere in the state, Commissioner Henderson stated that is still being discussed. Commissioner Henderson believes the new incoming administration will make that determination. Senator Meredith encouraged the statewide approach rather than the regionalization approach.

In response to a question asked by Representative Chris Harris concerning the cost to open regional facilities and the ongoing cost to keep them open, Commissioner Henderson stated that KYTC has made a preliminary estimate. He stated that if a planned system of 28 fully staffed facilities is realized, there would be an approximate annual cost of \$16 million. He added that currently the cost of the REAL ID license helps fund such costs. He added the entire project could be funded through the revenue generated by the issuance of the REAL ID credential.

In response to a question asked by Representative Maria Sorolis, Commissioner Henderson stated he could not provide an estimate of the maximum distance that citizens will have to travel to obtain REAL IDs from regional centers. One region has been tracked, and he believes it will be a little over an hour to arrive at a regional issuance center. The long term goal is to have more regional centers. He also stated 2017 HB 410 (the original enabling legislation) moved license reissuance from four years to eight years. Commissioner Henderson stated other states have options where the credential can be renewed online, which is something Kentucky may consider.

Senator Jimmy Higdon reiterated education is needed for citizens to understand that a REAL ID is not necessary unless air travel is possible, or visitation to a federal location or military location that identification is required to enter.

In response to a question asked by Chairman Ernie Harris concerning the expanded acceptable proof credentials, Commissioner Henderson did reiterate that there are federally mandated options for proof of identity; however more forms of address identification are acceptable.

In response to a question asked by Chairman Harris, Commissioner Henderson stated a temporary REAL ID credential will be given to you at the time the credential is applied for. That temporary ID will be valid for 30 days and will then trigger production of a card from the manufacturing location. The REAL ID card should be received in the mail within 10 days of the initial office visit. He also reiterated for commercial flight use, TSA has stated that a temporary card with your original non-compliant license stapled to it will be acceptable until your REAL ID card is received.

With no other business to come before the Committee, Chairman Harris adjourned the Committee at 3:35 P.M.