

WORKFORCE ATTRACTION AND RETENTION TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2024 Interim

June 20, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force was held on June 20, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Max Wise, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Max Wise Co-Chair; Representative Robert Duvall Co-Chair; Senators Greg Elkins, and Robin L. Webb; Representatives Josh Branscum, Matthew Koch, Michael Sarge Pollock, and Ashley Tackett Laferty.

Guests:

LRC Staff: Janine Coy, Crystal Thompson, and Sasche Allen.

Welcome

Chairman Wise welcomed members. Chairman Duvall expressed his excitement to be working with the task force and discussed the importance of removing barriers for the state's businesses and workforce.

Discussion of Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force Study

Chairman Wise discussed the formation of the task force, which was created and authorized by LRC for the 2024 Interim Session to study the issues raised by SJR 176, HCR 104, and HCR 79 that were introduced during the 2024 Regular Session. He informed members a large portion of the task force's research would be conducted by LRC Staff. Recommendations will be made to the General Assembly at the conclusion of the task force, and the Chairman hopes to have legislation passed during the 2025 Regular Session. Chairman Wise informed members they would be receiving a book about the growing demographics of the current generation of males ages 25 to 40 who are not currently participating in the post-Covid workforce titled Men Without Work.

Senator Webb made comments about participating in a similar governor appointed group in the past. She is most interested in the comparisons between the pre-Covid and post-Covid workforce

Representative Koch stated attraction and retention is a major issue across all sectors which

is why his focus in recent years has been increasing the use of technical education.

Senator Elkins said he would like the task force to closely examine workforce participation rates.

Representative Tackett Laferty discussed the need to retain the skilled workforce in Eastern Kentucky.

Representative Pollock highlighted the need to consider those in addiction recovery as a group within the workforce.

Chairman Wise stated the task force should assess barriers for site selection.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the task force, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.