



# INTERIM RECORD

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## Task force receives update on state use of AI

by Jordan Hensley - LRC Public Information

FRANKFORT — For nearly a year, the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) has worked to learn all it can about artificial intelligence technology.

On Aug. 13, Ruth Day, chief information officer at COT, told the Kentucky legislature's Artificial Intelligence Task Force what the agency has learned and how it's being used by state government.

"Since we are early in the journey, I can tell you that's very limited use," Day said. COT currently has a list of all the AI tools that have been procured, but how they're being used is decided agency-by-agency, she added.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, for example, is using a generative AI tool to identify on its self-service portal where users are spending most of their time to indicate where users might be having difficulty with the portal, Day said.

COT currently has 30 AI tools available for agency use, according to Day. In order to ensure ethical usage and privacy protection, COT is also drafting a new AI policy that will strengthen the agency's current technology usage policies.

Additionally, Day said COT has been using a process called Kentucky Information Technology Standards during the AI tech procurement process. Staff is also undergoing annual training on AI.

In September 2023, COT held an "AI Day" where Day and other staff met with several companies like



Artificial Intelligence Task Force Co-chair Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, asks a question about the future of AI in Kentucky during the Aug. 13 task force meeting.

Google and Microsoft about AI.

"The key takeaway that my team and I heard ... was understand that generative AI, like ChatGPT, is powerful. But know what you put into those

public, free models are then in the public domain," Day said.

Being aware of bias, data quality, privacy and other accuracy issues were also topics of concern.

"In all use cases of generative AI, there must be human oversight and human review of the output," Day added.

Co-chair Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe, R-Lexington, asked: "Do you feel like we have a good handle on employees being wise about their uses?"

Day said she does, however, COT is still working on understanding how to use all the AI tools currently available.

Following up on that topic, Co-chair Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, asked Day what the state can expect to see with AI in the next two years.

"Will we see AI maybe within the unemployment system to maybe help process some of these claims?" Bray asked. "Nationally, we've seen an uptick in unemployment insurance claims. The markets have kind of appeared to cool off, and there are some that think we're headed towards a recession. Is the commonwealth prepared for that?"

Day said the future of AI in Kentucky is being discussed every day.

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“I’m not familiar with all the workings of the unemployment insurance, but I do know they have had great success in this optical character recognition,” Day said. “It’s not the stuff you knew 10 years ago. It’s come a long, long way, and they have a high level of accuracy.”

With the 2025 legislative session in mind, Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reginald Thomas, D-Lexington, asked Day when the policy COT is drafting will be finished.

“We, as a task force, would like to see your report prior to us formulating what we’re going to be doing beginning in January,” he said.

Day said the hope is to have the policy finished before Thanksgiving.

The August meeting was the second of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. The special committee is tasked with studying AI systems and how they’re being used by Kentucky government

agencies and other states.

The task force will also provide recommendations on how Kentucky’s use of AI systems would benefit state agencies and the legislative initiatives needed to provide consumer protection in the private and public sectors.

The task force’s next meeting is currently scheduled for 11 a.m. on Sept. 10.

## Legislators discuss employment barriers legal immigrants might face

by Nancy Royden - LRC Public Information

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FRANKFORT — The Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force on Aug. 14 heard from two legislators and others about barriers some legal immigrants face when they seek employment.

Rep. Matthew Koch, R-Paris, and Rep. Nima Kulkarni, D-Louisville, testified during the meeting about those challenges and ways services might be connected to make attaining employment easier.

Koch recalled that, while serving in the military in Afghanistan, he met a translator who also worked in the medical profession before he immigrated to the United States.

“He goes from working in the medical field over in Afghanistan to coming over here and driving a cab,” Koch said. “And that’s always resonated with me because he did a great service for our country.”

Koch said the day’s discussions dealt with those who came to the United States legally.

“Let me tell you what this conversation is not. This is not a conversation about the border of the flow of illegal immigrants. I’m a Marine. There’s nothing I love more than a secure perimeter,” he said. “This is about the Green Card holders. This is about our international students. This is about those who have come over here seeking asylum. Think about Ukraine. Think about Iraq.”

Kulkarni said Kentucky is not the only entity dealing with challenges related to helping immigrants obtain employment, and learning best practices is paramount.

“It’s not necessarily a Kentucky-specific issue, either. There’s not one solution that’s worked in every state. I will say overall what you heard from our guests, you’ve heard models that work, programs that work, but that have



Rep. Matthew Koch, R-Paris, and Rep. Nima Kulkarni, D-Louisville, testify during the Aug. 14 meeting of the Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force.

really sprouted up in areas on their own in a response to a growing need that is only getting bigger,” she said.

If Kentucky officials take on some responsibility for funding, expand-

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ing and supporting programs where they exist, the commonwealth will benefit, Kulkarni said. Kentucky has the potential to harness a huge and growing potential workforce that's already here, she added.

Kristina Mielke, of Jewish Family and Career Services in Louisville, testified that Kentucky could benefit from legal immigrants who are in high-demand professions such as medicine and dentistry.

Sen. Robin L. Webb, D-Grayson, who practices law, said protocols could possibly be put in place – such as an apprenticeship or practicum under supervision – or some acknowledgement of job seekers' skills could be made.

“There are other ways to verify things, to come up with some alternative criteria for that. And then incorporate that with testing protocols. And I know a lot of these professions, including mine, are somewhat protectionist,” she said.

Kulkarni said some who have come to Kentucky had to quickly flee their country of origin without documentation, which is often required to secure a job.

“The reason I think that we wanted to identify barriers to historically underrepresented workforce populations is exactly the point Senator Webb was making. Why are licensure boards not able to individually evaluate these foreign credentials because we're talking about populations that are displaced, so they don't come here with certified transcripts and copies of diplomas that we all may have in our basements or attics,” she said.

Co-Chair Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, said recent legislation has helped some new Kentuckians more easily obtain employment, particularly related to nail salons.

The bill sparked a lot of interest “by that community that showed up in the halls here in Frankfort. I know that was a huge push into getting that

bill across the line,” he said.

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, expressed concern about the difficulty of having enough interpreters and interpreters of certain languages. He said he thinks those who testified conveyed a similar message that efforts could be coordinated.

“This is new to us on a supply-demand standpoint. And we're just not set up from an infrastructure thing to deal with this appropriately,” he said.

Kulkarni pointed out that the employment process could be improved by the federal government.

“So, this is just hopefully the beginning of the conversation. I mean in my years as an immigration practitioner, I do primarily employment based, so there's a lot of issues federally. There are a lot of reforms that should happen federally. And increasingly, it means states have come up with their solutions in order to harness patterns of global migration,” she said.







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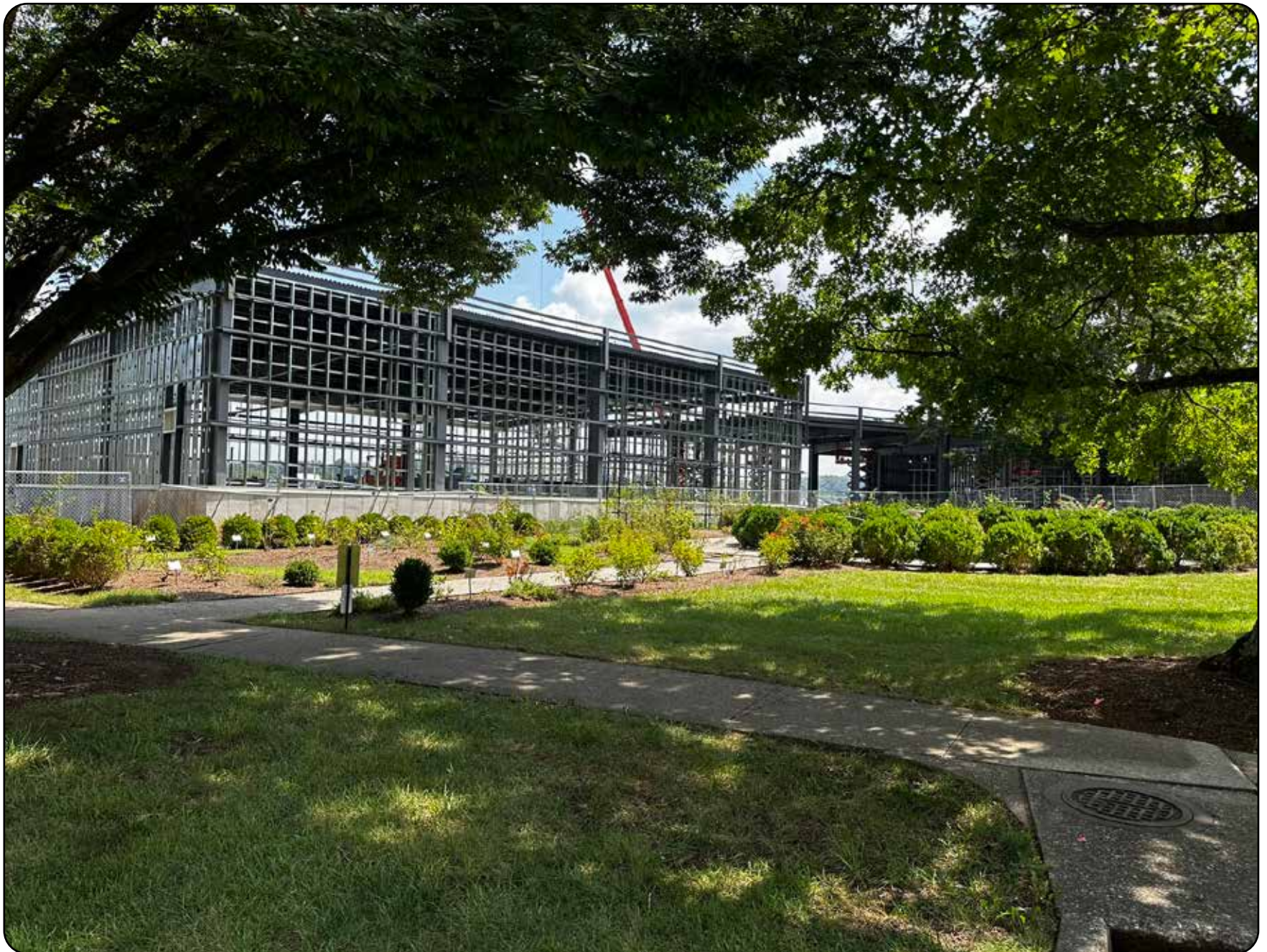
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# Committee Meetings

Minutes for Statutory Committees that met recently may be found at the following sites:

**Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Ag/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Ag/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/A&R/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/A&R/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Investment:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/EDWI/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/EDWI/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Education:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Education/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Education/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/IJCF&C/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/IJCF&C/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Health Services:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/IJCHS/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/IJCHS/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Judiciary/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Judiciary/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and Administrative Regulations:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/LO&AR/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/LO&AR/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Local Government:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Loc\\_Gov/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Loc_Gov/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/NR\\_&\\_E/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/NR_&_E/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on State Government:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/St\\_Gov/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/St_Gov/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/TSBIT/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/TSBIT/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Transportation:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Trans/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Trans/minutes_all.html)

**Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection:**

[https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Vets/minutes\\_all.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/committees/interim/Vets/minutes_all.html)

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### Administrative Regulations

Administrative Register (monthly):

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### Acts of the General Assembly (2023)

Regular Session: \$80 (2 volumes)

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### Journals

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2024 Interim

## LEGISLATIVE RECORD

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The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission is a 16-member committee of the majority and minority leadership of the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives. Under Chapter 7 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the LRC constitutes the administrative office for the General Assembly. Its director serves as chief administrative officer of the Legislature when it isn't in session.

The Commission and its staff, by law and by practice, perform numerous fact-finding and service functions for members of the Legislature, employing professional, clerical and other employees required when the General Assembly is in session and during the interim period between sessions. These employees, in turn, assist committees and individual legislators in preparing legislation. Other services include conducting studies and investigations, organizing and staffing committee meetings and public hearings, maintaining official legislative records and other reference materials, providing information about the Legislature to the public, compiling and publishing administrative regulations, administering a legislative intern program, conducting orientation programs for new legislators, and publishing a daily index and summary of legislative actions during sessions.

The LRC is also responsible for statute revision, publishing and distributing the Acts and Journals following sessions, and for maintaining furnishings, equipment and supplies for the Legislature. It also functions as Kentucky's Commission on Interstate Cooperation in carrying out the program of The Council of State Governments as it relates to Kentucky.

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# LEGISLATIVE RECORD

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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