# KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, July 26, 2012**

The Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) Legislative Committee met Thursday, July 26, 2012, at 400 Englewood Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky.

**Affiliate Membership present**:

Hon. Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge/Executive, President, KACo

Kentucky Magistrates & Commissioners Association: Richard Tanner, Executive Director

Kentucky County Judge/Executives Association: Vince Lang, Executive Director

Kentucky County Clerks Association: William May, Executive Director

Kentucky PVA Association: Mack Bushart, Executive Director

Kentucky Jailers Association: Renee Craddock, Executive Director; Hon. Mike Simpson, President, Oldham County Jailer

Kentucky Sheriff’s Association: William May, Lobbyist

**Others present:**

Sara McGown, Louisville Metro Government; Jeff Earlywine, Boone County Fiscal Court

**KACo staff present:** Denny Nunnelley, Executive Director; Shellie Hampton, Director of Governmental Relations; Hon. Rich Ornstein, Staff Attorney; Larry Crigler, Litigation Manager; Carolyn Jones, Chief Financial Officer; and Vicki Pettus, Legislative & Research Assistant.

Chairman Tommy Turner called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. The roll was called and, with a quorum being present, the committee was duly constituted to conduct business.

**Old Business:**

Motion made by Mack Bushart, seconded by Vince Lang, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2012, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Interim Session Issues**

Shellie Hampton and Renee Craddock reported on the Public Pension Task Force meeting that was held on July 24, at which staff from the Kentucky Retirement System and the Pew Center on the Statesgave testimony**.** KACo has been invited to give testimony at the next Task Force meeting scheduled for August 21, specifically to offer any suggestions for solving the funding crisis for both CERS (county employees’ retirement system) and KERS (State employees’ retirement system).

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Legislative Committee members had an extensive discussion about the pension issue, covering different options including: floating a bond issue; working to get all remaining KACo affiliates (PVAs, attorneys) under the CERS and separating CERS from KERS; cutting back on health benefits; and having a one-time assessment deducted from current retirees.

It was agreed that Bill Thielen, from Kentucky Retirement Systems, should be invited to the next Legislative Committee meeting to help members prepare testimony for the upcoming Task Force meeting. Chairman Turner encouraged all affiliates to discuss this issue immediately and to report any feedback to Shellie Hampton. Members were also advised that documents concerning this issue may be found on the KACo website under Legislative Services by Monday, July 30th.

Ms. Hampton gave an overview of other potential 2013 Session issues, which included:

--Unified Juvenile Code Task Force (due to meet the week of July 30).

--Constables (which the Department of Criminal Justice Training is studying).

--Electrical Inspections Task Force –HB 215 (which has not yet met).

--Tax Reform (for which public forums are being held throughout the State).

--Catastrophic Medical Funding for Inmate Care (funds for the short-term have been allocated but there is still no long-term resolution to the funding shortfall).

--Special Districts – HCR 53 (directs Interim Joint Committee on Local Government to study the issue); simultaneously the State Auditor’s office is surveying county judges, sheriffs, clerks, and the special district boards/personnel on financials, board membership, etc.

--E911 Funding (Jeff Earlywine reported that Kenton County failed to pass second reading of an ordinance that would have put $6 on utility bills to fund 911; they then had first reading of an ordinance to enact a fee of $85/year on parcels of property valued at $10,000 or more.)

**Specific Affiliate Issues for 2013 Session:**

Chairman Turner asked each of the affiliate attendees if they had specific issues they were focused on for the upcoming session.

* Vince Lang said the County Judge/Executives Association was concerned with each of the issues listed above.
* William May stated that the County Clerks are concerned with election clean-up; and the Sheriffs are concerned with the Constables.
* Richard Tanner stated that E911 funding would probably be the top concern for Magistrates & Commissioners, but that their issues would be limited due to a short session.
* Mike Simpson said the Jailers are concerned with catastrophic medical funding for inmates but would have more issues after their meeting August 15.
* Mack Bushart stated that the PVA’s would be looking at what comes out of the Tax Reform Commission-their budget shortfalls are always top priority.

**Other Business:**

The **next meeting** of the Legislative Committee is tentatively set for **August 10, 2012, at 10:00**

**a.m.**, with guest speaker Bill Thielen, Executive Director, Kentucky Retirement Systems.

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A motion was made by Mike Simpson, and seconded by William May, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. The motion carried

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vicki M. Pettus

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Chairman Tommy Turner

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Date Approved