



LEGISLATIVE
BUDGET & FINANCE
COMMITTEE
EST. 1959

The LBFC Performance Report

Winter-Spring 2024 / Issue 10

It has only been a few months since our last newsletter, but there is plenty happening at the LBFC! From new faces to new projects, check out all the exciting work around the Committee:

LBFC MEMBERS

Officers

SEN. KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL,
CHAIR
SEN. JAMES R. BREWSTER,
VICE CHAIR
REP. TORREN ECKER,
SECRETARY
REP. SCOTT CONKLIN,
TREASURER

Members

SEN. JARRETT COLEMAN
SEN. CRIS DUSH
SEN. ART HAYWOOD
SEN. CHRISTINE
TARTAGLIONE

REP. DANILO BURGOS
REP. STEVE SAMUELSON
REP. BRIAN SMITH
REP. TIM TWARDZIK



HEADLINE MATERIAL



Extra, Extra! The LBFC's work is getting noticed across the state. Here are some recent examples:

In January, [The Legal Intelligencer](#) cited findings from the LBFC's 2021 study "**Pennsylvania Indigent Criminal Defense Services Funding and Caseloads**," which found per capita spending on criminal defense varied by county in the state. Pennsylvania's first-ever statewide indigent public defense appropriation was included in the FY 2023 budget. In February, LBFC staff met with the newly formed Indigent Defense Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to discuss the findings of the 2021 report.

In March, the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) highlighted portions of the LBFC's 2022 study "**A Report on the Limitations on Liability Under Pennsylvania's Sovereign and Governmental Immunity Laws**." The report recommends the General Assembly consider developing new liability caps for economic damages to cover catastrophic claims against the commonwealth and local governments.



400-A Finance Building
PO Box 8737
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8737

(717) 783-1600
lbfcinfo@palbfc.us



PA Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

Project Updates

At our March 20 Committee meeting, the LBFC released the following reports:



Annual Report Required by Act 2013-90: The Impact of Tavern Gaming on the Pennsylvania Lottery – LBFC staff studied the impact of tavern gaming on the Pennsylvania Lottery. The study found tavern gaming did not have a material impact on State Lottery sales in 2023.



A Study Pursuant to Senate Resolution 2023-116: Supplier Consolidated Billing – LBFC staff studied supplier-issued consolidated billing within retail energy markets, and recommends supplier consolidated billing actions in Maryland be monitored for potential implementation in Pennsylvania, among other recommendations.



A Study Pursuant to Senate Resolution 2023-120: EMS Treat/No Transport in Medical Assistance Managed Care – LBFC staff studied the impact of “treat and release” calls on emergency medical services, specifically among patients covered by Medical Assistance Managed Care Organizations. The report recommends the General Assembly consider implementing state-directed payments for treat/no transport incidents, as well as reimbursements for new models of EMS care delivery.

For copies of the reports, summaries, and report release testimony, visit our website:

lbfc.legis.state.pa.us

Since November, the LBFC Officers have adopted the following studies:



House Resolution 2023-131 (December 2023) – Directs the LBFC to conduct a study to compare impact fees and severance taxes in the largest natural gas-producing states and examine the competitive business climate for the industry in those states.



Senate Resolution 2023-178 (December 2023) – Directs the LBFC to conduct a study evaluating the outcomes of Act 44 of 2018 and the School Safety and Security Grant Program, and to issue a report of its findings and recommendations.



Senate Resolution 2023-110 (February 2024) – Directs the LBFC to conduct a performance audit of the Neighborhood Improvement Zone and Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority programs administered by the Department of Revenue.



Senate Resolution 2023-169 (February 2024) – Directs the LBFC to conduct a study evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the various workforce development programs administered by commonwealth agencies.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

In December, LBFC staff working the ***House Resolution 2023-66*** study, which reviews the intersection of housing and health, attended the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania's "Homes within Reach Conference" in Hershey. Over the three days, our team heard from members of the General Assembly, Shapiro Administration officials, local government supervisors, and a wide array of industry stakeholders.

With so many of the commonwealth's housing professionals under one roof, the conference was a tremendous opportunity to engage with experts on the homelessness issue. LBFC staff have continued to engage many of the experts featured at this conference and will include their perspectives in the HR 66 report scheduled to be released in June.



On the Lighter Side

In between report outlines and number crunching, we still like to have a little fun. Here are some of the ways that the LBFC staff have been keeping things “light” around the office recently:

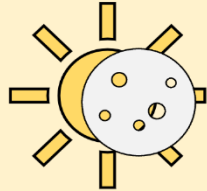


BUSTED BUDGETS!



Once again, the LBFC got in on the madness with its annual NCAA Tournament bracket challenge. This year, **Stevi Sprenkle** came out on top, claiming first place in both the Men’s and Women’s Tournaments. As is tradition, staff who had their brackets busted donated to the winner’s charity of choice, which for Stevi was the Women’s Sports Foundation.

HERE COMES (AND GOES) THE SUN



LBFC staff joined the crowds of novice astronomers taking in the Great North American Eclipse from the Capitol Complex on April 8.

The cloudy Harrisburg skies cleared up just in time to see the eclipse at peak magnitude, which was 93% for the city.

Fortunately, no staff members were harmed thanks to protective eyewear, and all were quickly able to return to report writing.

The younger staff members are already making plans for the next contiguous eclipse in the United States in 2044.

Staff News

Promotions

In January, **Stevi Sprenkle** became the LBFC's newest Project Manager. The promotion marks a rapid rise for Stevi, who only last year was promoted to Analyst III. Stevi released her first report as a Project Manager, *A Study Pursuant to SR 120: EMS Treat/No Transport in Medical Assistance Managed Care*, in March, and she and her team are hard at work on future LBFC studies. Congratulations Stevi!

New Staff

The LBFC hired four new staff members in the fall and winter. These new employees come from a variety of backgrounds and bring an array of experiences from state government, private industry, and the legal system.

Erika Eberly started as the LBFC's Executive Assistant in October. Erika has previously worked for the Pennsylvania Senate, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, and the House of Music, Arts, and Culture, and is a prominent member of the Harrisburg theatre community.

In November, **Dave Beaudoin** joined the LBFC as an Analyst. A Certified Public Accountant, Dave has extensive experience at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Verizon, and Ballotpedia. Dave holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from the University of Delaware and an MBA from Temple University.

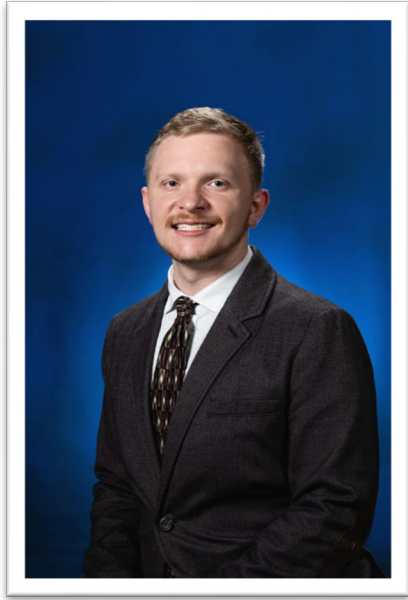


Staff Birthdays

March 22:	Anthony
March 25:	Matt
April 5:	Anne
April 25:	Dave

Staff Anniversaries

January:	Anne – 29 Years
April:	Steve – 25 Years
April:	Amy, Lauren, and Shanika – 6 Years



Josh Ballard joined the LBFC as an Analyst in February, previously working as a paralegal in family and criminal law. From Amarillo, Texas, Josh holds an associate degree in mass communication and a paralegal certificate from Amarillo College, a bachelor's degree in legal studies from West Texas A&M University, and a master's in criminal justice from the Pennsylvania State University. Josh was recently awarded the Criminal Justice Outstanding Master's Thesis Award at Penn State Harrisburg for his 2023 thesis, *Guns and Governance: A Study of the Influence of State Polity on Firearm Utilization in Domestic Terrorism*.

The newest LBFC employee, **Anthony Choi** started as an Analyst in March. Anthony is a recent graduate of Gettysburg College with a degree in political science, gaining experience at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the United States House of Representatives as an undergraduate. Originally from Korea, Anthony immigrated to the United States at age 10 and lived with his family in California prior to arriving in central Pennsylvania for his higher education.



Please join us in welcoming Erika, Dave, Josh, and Anthony to the LBFC!

LBFC STAFF

CHRISTOPHER LATTA, MBA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STEPHEN FICKES, MPA
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR/PROJECT MANAGER

JOSH BALLARD, MA
ANALYST

DAVE BEAUDOIN, CPA, MBA
ANALYST

LAUREN BORDNER
OFFICE MANAGER/COMPTROLLER

ANTHONY CHOI
ANALYST

ERIKA EBERLY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

AMY HOCKENBERRY
ANALYST

SHANIKA MITCHELL-SAINTE
JEAN, MPH, MPA
ANALYST

MORGAN SMITH
ANALYST

STEVI SPRENKLE, MPA
PROJECT MANAGER

MATTHEW THOMAS
ANALYST

ANNE WITKONIS
PROJECT MANAGER

JAMES WYNNE
ANALYST