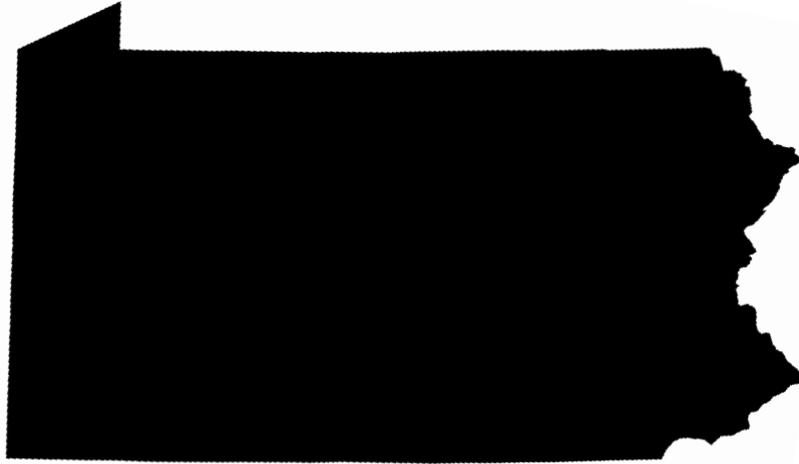


The Pennsylvania Policy Database User Guide and Codebook

September 2011



Constructed with the support and cooperation of the Pennsylvania General Assembly by students at Temple University with assistance from students at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania State University Harrisburg, and the University of Pennsylvania.

www.temple.edu/papolicy

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Project Director

Joseph P. McLaughlin
Temple University
jmclau@temple.edu,

Senior Advisor

Frank R. Baumgartner
University of N. Carolina
frankb@unc.edu

Project Coordinator

Jay Jennings
Temple University
jay.jennings@temple.edu
215-204-7765

Asst. Project Coordinator

Michelle Atherton
Temple University
mjather@temple.edu
215-204-9074

Senior Researcher

David Ferreira
Temple University
dferreira@temple.edu

UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Temple University
jmclau@temple.edu

Frank R. Baumgartner
University of North Carolina
frankb@unc.edu

J. Wesley Leckrone
Widener University
jwleckrone@widener.edu

Paul Wolfgang
Temple University
wolfgang@temple.edu

Megan Mullin
Temple University
mmullin@temple.edu

Beverly A. Cigler
Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg
cigler@psu.edu

David B. Thornburgh
Executive Director, Fels Institute of Government
david_thornburgh@sas.upenn.edu

David Y. Miller
University of Pittsburgh
dymiller@pitt.edu

Richard A. Stafford
Carnegie Mellon University
rstaff@andrew.cmu.edu

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Introduction to the Pennsylvania Policy Database Project

What is the Pennsylvania Policy Database?

The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project is a free, online resource that provides access to more than 164,000 state and news media records and enables users to trace and analyze with a few mouse clicks the history of public policy in the Commonwealth since 1979. Designed for easy use by educators, students, researchers, policy makers, news reporters, and the general public, it is the first comprehensive state policy database of its kind. To access the database please use the [Data Analysis Tool](#).



The project was built with the support and cooperation of the Pennsylvania General Assembly by faculty-supervised students at Temple University and five other universities: Penn State, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State Harrisburg, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania project is modeled on the national Policy Agendas database (www.policyagendas.org), which allows users to track and analyze federal policy since 1946. Created by political scientists Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones and funded by the National Science Foundation, the national project is housed at the University of Texas. Similar databases are under construction in a dozen foreign countries (www.comparativeagendas.org). Both the Policy Agendas and Comparative Agendas websites provide links to the Pennsylvania project. Users seeking a deeper understanding of these projects are referred to the bibliography, which includes an article on the Pennsylvania database published in the Fall 2010 edition of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*.

How is this database different from traditional government archives?

The database provides researchers with superior tools for both *information retrieval*, a goal of most official archives, and *pattern recognition*, which is often difficult to achieve without spending immense amounts of time and effort painstakingly studying and classifying hundreds if not thousands of records in numerous agency archives. Because the Pennsylvania Policy Database files all state and news media records in exclusive and exhaustive categories that are consistently organized over time, it allows users not only to locate important records but to recognize and graphically display patterns of policy development across many issue areas, many policy making venues, and many years. Users can quickly identify shifts in public attention between policy areas and significant increases or declines in activity as reflected in legislation, governors' speeches, court decisions, state spending, or media reporting as it is tracked by elected officials. All records or abstracts of records also can be instantly downloaded for further detailed analysis. Uniquely, the Pennsylvania database also provides tools to analyze the legislative process itself, either free of policy content or focused on particular policy topics.

What records are included and how was it built?

The database includes House and Senate bills and resolutions, acts, legislative hearings, governors' budget messages, governors' executive orders, state expenditures, news reports from across the state, *Governing* magazine articles, public opinion polls, legislative studies, and Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions. Working under the supervision of faculty leaders and graduate research managers, students at the participating universities abstracted and coded these diverse records into 20 major and more than 200 minor topic areas, using definitions and decision rules created for the national database. Although keyword search is provided as a supplemental feature, it is not the primary tool for either coding or finding records, as it is in many traditional archives. Keyword search tools require researchers to guess at the terminology to use (including the proper spelling, capitalization, etc.) and are vulnerable to changes in the meaning of terms over time. Rather, each individual record was read and double-blind coded by two students working independently or by one student and a computer using specially created policy coding software. If necessary, a graduate student serving as research manager would break tie votes. The Commonwealth's expenditures also have been coded in the same major policy topics as the other records. Total state spending and general fund balances or deficits can be stated in constant or current dollars. The project covers the years from 1979 to the most recently completed two-year session of the legislature.

What are the project's benefits?

The project supplements existing state information-retrieval systems and is consistent with public demands for increased transparency. State policymakers and aides can more efficiently research recurring issues and previously-tried solutions, avoiding the need to reinvent the wheel. The integration of government records, news accounts, and opinion data can help students, educators, and policymakers gain insights into the underlying causes and politics of issues. The project's comparability with the national database facilitates insights into federal-state policy relationships. The project provides a central index to different kinds of state records and therefore provides staffers and archivists with a new tool to respond to public inquiries. It outlines a comprehensible, "no-spin" history of an institution – the legislature – whose policy and "PR" outputs frequently -- and rightly -- reflect partisan debate and conflict but leave the larger institutional story untold. It also codes and provides abstracts and access to records of the top decision makers in the other two branches, the governor and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

We also believe the project can help correct a long-standing imbalance in both scholarship and public understanding. The state role in American public policy is under-studied in universities, under-reported by the news media, and not well understood by the general public. Scholars and the news media have paid far more attention to national and urban public policy, perhaps partly because many state capitals are remote from the main campuses of major universities and from major metropolitan news outlets.

Acknowledgements

Construction of the database was made possible by funding from the Pennsylvania General Assembly, a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, and by in-kind contributions from the participating universities, including faculty time and overhead costs. Virtually all project funds have compensated students at Temple and the other universities. The database now is maintained solely with Temple University funds.

The project has benefitted enormously from support provided by senior staff officers of the General Assembly and from assistance provided by many other state officials, some of whom are still active and some of whom have assumed other positions in public or private life or have retired. They include:

The General Assembly Project Advisory Committee

Mark Corrigan, secretary of the Senate; Greg Jordan, executive director, and Tom Starke, former executive director, Senate Appropriations Committee [R]; Randy Albright, executive director, Senate Appropriations Committee [D]; Clancy Myer, House Parliamentarian; Steve Tuckey, counsel, and Joe Miller, former director of research, House Republican Caucus; Beryl Kuhr, counsel, and Lisa Fleming, budget analyst, House Appropriations Committee [D].

The Chief Clerks: Russell Faber (Senate) and Anthony Barbush (House) and Roger Nick, former chief clerk of the House.

Commonwealth Offices, Archivists and Records Center Directors

Heidi C. Mays, House archivist; Evelyn Andrews, Senate librarian; Kathy A. Sullivan, executive director, Legislative Data Processing Center; Harry F. Parker, former chief, Division of Archives, Historical and Museum Commission; Caryn J. Carr, former director, State Library of Pennsylvania; Judy Townsend, former assistant director, Public Services Division, State Library; Randall Tenor, library supervisor, State Library; Robert Zech, director, Legislative Reference Bureau; David Hostetter, former executive director, Joint State Government Commission; Michael Gasbarre, executive director, Local Government Commission; Philip Durgin, executive director, Legislative Budget and Finance Committee; Barry L. Denk, executive director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania; Mark H. Bergstrom, executive director, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing; Steve Miskin, press secretary to the House Majority Leader; Gary Tuma and Chuck Ardo, former press secretaries to Governor Rendell; and ML Wernecke, former policy director, Department of Public Welfare.

Others Who Helped

Nancy Watson, curator, Thornburgh Archives (the Dick Thornburgh Papers), University of Pittsburgh; James P. Quigel, head of historical collections and labor archives, Penn State University; G. Terry Madonna and Berwood Yost, The Franklin and Marshall College Poll; Christopher Pece, chief, public finance analysis branch, United States Bureau of the Census; and *Governing Magazine*.

Westlaw (<http://www.westlaw.com>) deserves a special note of thanks for allowing us to incorporate, under an exclusive license, its abstracts of Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions since 1979 for the benefit of our users. More information on how to take advantage of this feature can be found in the description of this dataset in this report. The abstracts themselves remain copyrighted and although accessible through the Temple database cannot be reproduced without permission of Westlaw.

The University Advisory Committee (Faculty Leaders and Graduate Research Managers)

Frank Baumgartner, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and formerly of The Pennsylvania State University; Beverly Cigler, The Pennsylvania State University—Harrisburg; David Y. Miller, University of Pittsburgh; Donald F. Kettl, University of Maryland and formerly of the University of Pennsylvania; Richard A. Stafford, Carnegie Mellon University; Megan Mullin, Temple University; David Thornburgh, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania; and Mike King, former executive director, Legislative Office for Research Liaison, Pennsylvania House of Representatives. J. Wesley Leckrone of Widener University and Justin Gollob of Mesa State University served as Temple graduate student research managers, as did Jon Moody at Penn State. Thanks to Paul Wolfgang of Temple's computer and information sciences faculty for designing the website tools and unique software to code records and to analyze legislative history, assisted by Ping Zhang, a Temple graduate student. Thanks also to Marc Getty, IT director for Temple's College of Liberal Arts, and his talented crew.

Our Students

Dozens of students at Temple and the other universities did -- and Temple students are still doing -- all of the hard work. They read, abstracted, and coded more than 164,000 records and did so with diligence and attention to the nuances and details of a complex code book. Kudos to them.

Dataset Descriptions

Below is a brief description of each of our ten datasets. All records or abstracts can be displayed graphically or in tables as either raw counts or as percentages of the total records in each dataset for each year. Records or abstracts also can be downloaded if raw counts are chosen. Patterns can be assessed more easily and reliably if percentages are selected, thus controlling for varying volumes of activity in, say, bill introductions or new digest articles from year to year or session to session.

Please visit our website for a more detailed description of our datasets.

Governing Magazine

This dataset includes all articles which appeared in *Governing Magazine* since 1988. *Governing* features articles that examine trends in state and local government. Its inclusion into this database allows researchers to contrast the pace of policy debate in Pennsylvania with other states. There are 5,777 articles included in this dataset. A two digit major code and filters have been applied to each record.

Newspaper Articles

This dataset contains a measure of the government's attention to news reporting and opinion on public policy issues in Pennsylvania from 1979 to 2010 and is made up of over 63,000 abstracts. Because there is no dominant news source for the entire state, these data are composed of a random sample of news reports produced by dozens of newspapers and electronic media across Pennsylvania as collected by state Capitol press offices and circulated to key policy makers each weekday in the form of news digests. This is the only dataset that is not universal. The random sample for most years is 10 percent but for some years with a very large volume of news stories, it is 5 percent. (Researchers should use the percentage rather than raw count measures for trend analysis in this dataset.) The governor's press office is the source of the news reports during the Thornburgh (1979-1987), Casey (1987-1995), and Rendell (2003-2011) administrations. During the combined Ridge and Schweiker administrations (1995-2003), the project sampled similar news digests produced by the press offices of the House Democratic and Republican caucuses. These reports are collected and circulated by press offices to insure that policy makers and their staffs are aware of what news organizations and opinion writers across Pennsylvania are saying about policy issues. In effect, the articles represent the media's "agenda" as perceived by policy makers.

Bills and Resolutions

This dataset includes all bills and resolutions introduced into the Pennsylvania General Assembly beginning with the 1979-80 session through the most recent full session for which coding has been completed. For all regular sessions and six Special Sessions from 1979 through 2008, there were a total of 80,388 records with an average of 5,024 per session or 2,512 per year. For each four-digit policy code or combination of codes, users can find bill numbers, hyperlinks to the state website providing the full text of the final version of each bill or resolution and all previous

versions, and a summary of its legislative history. For some years, the legislative history also provides a link to pages in the legislative journal where verbatim debate and roll calls are available. Users can filter bills to identify, for example, bills that were referred to particular committees, passed by one chamber but not another, vetoed, enacted by overriding a veto, etc. Because legislators generally introduce more bills in the first year of a two-year session, the graphs of bills introduced tend to have a zig-zag look when displayed by years. Patterns of legislative attention by policy area are easier to recognize if searches are conducted by legislative sessions (thus smoothing the graphic displays) rather than by years.

Legislative Hearings

House Hearings

The House Hearings dataset was created from access given to the PPDP to the House Archives. The records had been digitized and an abstract had been written by the staff of the House Archives for each hearing. Unlike the Senate hearings, which we know are incomplete, to our knowledge the House Hearings are a complete dataset of all hearings that took place since 1979 up through 2010 with a total 4,580 records. The only filter applied to this dataset was a binary budget filter. This indicates whether or not the hearing was a part of the yearly state budget process. Each record also notes which committee(s) took part in the hearing, which city the hearing took place in, and any specific legislation that was discussed during the hearing.

Senate Hearings

The Senate hearings dataset was provided to the Pennsylvania Project by the Senate Library. While this dataset is not complete in that it does not include all hearings held, it does represent all of the materials that standing committees have sent to the Senate library for archiving, and therefore could be considered complete in this sense. Not all of the materials in the Senate hearings dataset relate to hearings held by the Senate. Some of the hearings were conducted by the House but lodged in Senate files, and some were conducted jointly by Senate and House committees. Such occasions are indicated in the spreadsheets provided after searches completed with the analysis tool.

Legislative Service Agency Reports

This dataset includes 558 reports collected from legislative service agencies requested by the Pennsylvania General Assembly or by the members on their boards beginning with the 1979-80 session. Reports were collected from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, the Commission on Sentencing, the Joint Conservation Committee, the Joint State Government Commission, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, and the Local Government Commission.

Governors' Budget Address

The governors' budget messages dataset follows the coding of the President's State-of-the-Union address dataset in the Policy Agendas Project. Each year in an address to the General Assembly (typically in early February but up to a month later during inauguration years), the governor

proposes a budget for the fiscal year beginning the following July 1 and identifies policy priorities. Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, the budget must be passed by July 1, though deliberations sometimes extend beyond the legal deadline. In 2003, Governor Rendell presented two budget addresses, and both are included in the dataset.

Executive Orders

This dataset is a record of every Executive Order (EO) of the Governor of Pennsylvania from the beginning of the Thornburgh Administration (1979) to the second Rendell Administration (currently completed up through 2008). There have been more than two hundred Executive Orders over this nearly thirty year span. In addition to new Executive Orders, the dataset includes revisions to existing Orders, and Executive Orders that have been subsequently rescinded.

Supreme Court Decisions

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court dataset includes abstracts of opinions issued on cases since 1979. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court consists of seven members initially elected for ten year terms, after which they run on retention ballots. It receives around 2,500 civil and criminal appeals each year but only issues decisions on about 150 cases per year, including appellate, original, exclusive and extraordinary jurisdictions. The dataset does not include cases that were decided without a written opinion.

The abstracts provided were produced by Westlaw (<http://www.westlaw.com>) and generously provided to Temple University's Pennsylvania Policy Database free of charge and under an exclusive license. The abstracts themselves are copyrighted by Westlaw and may not be reproduced without its permission. For each abstract, the tool provides a link to Westlaw for researchers wishing access to the full analysis of the case, either because researchers or their universities are already subscribers to the service or because they wish to order the full analysis with a credit card. The Temple project is solely responsible for classifying the abstracts by policy topic.

Most Important Problems Polls

This dataset codes public opinion from the Franklin and Marshall College Poll's "Most Important Problem" question using the major policy codes from the Pennsylvania Policy Database Project that have been reformatted from the National Policy Agendas Project. The Franklin and Marshall College Poll (formerly known as the Keystone Poll) is conducted through the Center for Opinion Research and collects a representative sample of responses from Pennsylvania residents.

Budget (Total Spending All Funds and General Fund Balance)

Two datasets shown on the Analysis Tool page are discussed under this topic, which for purposes of paralleling the US Policy Agendas architecture is labeled "Budget." Both datasets

were constructed from well-established and methodologically consistent sources that allow researchers to compare data across many years and across all fifty states.

Total Spending All Funds

The sources of these data on government outlays are the annual reports in the *State Government Finances* series of the US Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by our researchers to fit major policy topics of the Pennsylvania Policy Database Project. Total state spending or spending in any policy area can be stated in constant or current-year dollars, and spending in any policy area can also be calculated as a percentage of total state spending.

General Fund Balance With or Without Rainy Day Fund Balance

The sources of these data are annual editions of the *Fiscal Survey of the States* published by the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers. Although the General Fund supports about half of total state spending, it accounts for about 85 percent of state own-source spending and is the most flexible and important tool of state policy. This dataset differs from others in that it is a measure of fiscal condition and not policy attention. It has no policy content but is relevant in that fiscal condition may be related to shifts in policy attention or decisions, particularly for the states, which operate under balanced-budget rules. Users can include or exclude amounts in the so-called “rainy day fund,” which Pennsylvania and other states have established to help stabilize budgets in economic downturns. This tool also will express balances in constant or current dollars or as a percentage of general fund expenditures. Many experts argue that the general fund balance should amount to five percent of general fund expenditures, equivalent to about 18 days of spending, on average.

How to use the Pennsylvania Policy Database Project's Analysis Tool

To access the Analysis Tool click on the link for it from our website at www.temple.edu/papolicy or, enter the following address into your browser (case sensitive): <http://policydb.temple.edu/PAPolicy/analysis.spg>

There are instructions and screen shots below to help you use the Analysis Tool. This should be the screen once the page loads.



PENNSYLVANIA POLICY DATABASE PROJECT

[About our data](#) [Return to Pennsylvania Policy Project home page](#)

Build Your Own Policy Analysis Query

This form enables you to graph trends and download data from the main Pennsylvania Policy Project datasets. Scroll down the page for the available search options.

DATASETS TO SEARCH:	DATASET FILTERS	
<p>Keep scrolling down the page to select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional datasets • policy topics and key word search • time frame 	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Clips	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governing Magazine	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bills and Resolutions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts (Laws) and Adopted Resolutions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> House Hearings	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senate Hearings	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Service Agency Reports	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Budget Address	No Filters
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Orders	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Important Problem	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Spending All Funds	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Balance	
<p>POLICY AREAS TO INCLUDE:</p> <p>Each record includes a short description (a sentence or phrase) of the item. This features allows a text search of that field and will help identify the best topic from the list to the right.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To select multiple subtopics/topics, press the control (ctrl) key or Apple Command key while using your mouse to click on desired topics. • To select just major topic(s), select the option "All subtopics in ..." • To select <i>all</i> major topics, check the box "Search ALL topics ..." this will give you a breakdown of each policy topic • To combine all topics in to one figure and download link, do <i>not</i> select any of the policy topics check boxes or the "Search ALL topics" box. <p><input type="checkbox"/> Search ALL Topics, or select specific topics/subtopics from the lists below:</p>	
	<p>Agriculture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All subtopics in Agriculture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expand subtopics</p>	
	<p>Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All subtopics in Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expand subtopics</p>	
	<p>Civil Rights and Liberties</p>	

Datasets

The tool will allow you to analyze data from the following datasets:

- [Hearings](#) (both House and Senate)
- [Governing Magazine](#)
- [Newspaper Clips](#)
- [Bills, Resolutions and Laws](#)
- [Legislative Agency Service Reports](#)
- [Governor's Budget Address](#)
- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Supreme Court](#)
- [Most Important Problem](#)
- [Total Spending All Funds](#)
- [General Fund Balance](#)

Click on links for detailed information of each dataset.

How to Select Datasets

DATASETS TO SEARCH:	DATASET FILTERS	
	Pre-set to default values	
Keep scrolling down the page to select: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional datasets • policy topics and key word search • time frame 	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Clips	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governing Magazine	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bills and Resolutions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts (Laws) and Adopted Resolutions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> House Hearings	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senate Hearings	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Service Agency Reports	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Budget Address	No Filters
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Orders	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Important Problem	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Spending All Funds	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Balance	

By clicking on the selection box to the left of the dataset name you are choosing to analyze data from that particular dataset. You can choose as many datasets as you like, but you must at least choose one dataset. When you have selected a dataset, further options or filters will be displayed (if there are any). For some of the datasets there will be many options and some of them may not be immediately clear. Please refer to the descriptions of the datasets for further explanations of these options and filters. The legislative history filters for bills and resolutions and acts are explained later in this report.

DATASETS TO SEARCH:	DATASET FILTERS <small>Pre-set to default values</small>	
<p>Keep scrolling down the page to select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional datasets • policy topics and key word search • time frame 	<input type="checkbox"/> New spaper Clips	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governing Magazine	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bills and Resolutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Bills and Resolutions <input type="radio"/> Bills <input type="radio"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular Sessions Only <input type="radio"/> Special Sessions Only <input type="radio"/> Both Regular and Special Sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Acts (Law s) and Adopted Resolutions	<p>Referred to House Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Only ALL COMMITTEES</p> <p>Referred to Senate Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Only ALL COMMITTEES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conference Committee</p> <p>House Last Action no filter</p> <p>Senate Last Action no filter</p> <p>Constitution Ammendment <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Passed by Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed Once by Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed Twice in Consecutiv e Sessions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved by the Voters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defeated by the Voters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially approved by Voters</p> <p>Sponsor Party <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Republican <input type="radio"/> Democrat <input type="radio"/> Both</p> <p>Vetoed <input type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input checked="" type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Line Item Veto <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Veto Overriden <input type="radio"/> no filter <input checked="" type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Law Without Gov ernor's Signature <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Signed By Gov ernor <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Dealing with Taxes <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Concerning the Elderly <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Commemorativ e <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p> <p>Petition <input checked="" type="radio"/> no filter <input type="radio"/> Exclude <input type="radio"/> Include</p>

Policy Topic Areas

The PPDP has categorized each piece of data into the following policy topic areas:

- Agriculture
- Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Community Development, Housing Issues
- Defense
- Education
- Energy
- Environment
- Fiscal and Economic Issues
- Foreign Trade
- Government Operations
- Health
- International Affairs and Foreign Aid
- Labor, Employment, and Immigration
- Law, Crime, and Family Issues
- Local Government and Governance
- Public Lands and Water Management
- Social Welfare
- Space, Science, Technology, and Communications
- Transportation

For further information about these topic areas and our coding process, please see the Codebook.

Viewing or Downloading Entire Datasets

In order to view or download the entire dataset you have selected above, simply leave the "Search ALL Topics" box unchecked and do not check any of the policy areas.

If you would rather view or download the dataset by individual policy areas either select the "Search ALL Topics" box for the dataset to be broken down by each policy area or select the individual policy areas of interest (further instructions on how to do this are below).

In addition, all of our datasets are available for download in Excel, Stata or CSV format at <http://www.temple.edu/papolicy/datadownload.htm>.

Selecting Policy Topic and Subtopic Areas

Under each policy topic area name there is an option to select all subtopics in that area or to expand the subtopic list.

If you choose to expand the subtopics list you can select the subtopics you would like to analyze by highlighting the subtopic.

If you would like to highlight multiple subtopics in one policy topic area, hold down the “control” (CTRL) button on your keyboard and click as many subtopics as you would like to analyze.

You can choose as many areas as you like, but you must at least choose one topic or subtopic area.

If you want to select all topic areas, there is an option to do so above the list of topic areas.

POLICY AREAS TO INCLUDE:

Each record includes a short description (a sentence or phrase) of the item. This feature allows a text search of that field and will help identify the best topic from the list to the right.

- To select multiple subtopics/topics, press the control (ctrl) key or Apple Command key while using your mouse to click on desired topics.
- To select just major topic(s), select the option "All subtopics in ..."
- To select all major topics, check the box "Search ALL topics ..."

Search ALL Topics, or select specific topics/subtopics from the lists below:

Agriculture

All subtopics in Agriculture

Expand subtopics

Agricultural Marketing, Research, and Promotion
Agricultural Research and Development
Agricultural Trade
Animal and Crop Disease, Pest Control, and Domestic Pets
Food Inspection and Safety
General Agriculture
Government Agricultural Subsidies, Agricultural Disaster Insurance
Other

Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce

All subtopics in Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce

Expand subtopics

Civil Rights and Liberties

All subtopics in Civil Rights and Liberties

Expand subtopics

Community Development, Housing Issues

All subtopics in Community Development, Housing Issues

Other Options

There are three options on how you want the tool to perform your analysis.

- **Keyword search:**

Allows you to search for keywords within the data (note: keywords only search within the abstract not the entire text of the bill, news article, or court decision).

- **Years or Sessions:**

This option allows you to choose whether you want years or legislative sessions (2 years) as your time variable. (Note that the bills dataset will often produce a zigzag pattern if you choose years, as more bills are introduced in the first year of a two-year session. Choosing to display bills by sessions smoothes the lines on the graphs and makes patterns more recognizable.)

- **Graphs and Tables:**

You can choose to graph your data in three ways: (1) by the number of cases (raw counts); (2) by the percent of all activity; or (3) by the percent of all filtered activity. If you choose the dataset “bills,” for example, and then choose education as a policy topic and raw counts as the measure to be graphed, you will get a graph and corresponding table that provides the absolute numbers of education bills introduced in each year or session. The numbers in the table are also links to the full text or abstracts of each record.

If you choose education bills and percent of all activity, you will get a graph and tables that show education bills introduced as a percent of all bills introduced. If you add a filter, such as vetoed, you will get education bills that were vetoed as a percentage of all bills vetoed. In either case, the percentages in the tables are not links to underlying records. For the Most Important Problem dataset, only percentages will be displayed.

When you have made these choices, you can then click on the “Search” button to complete the analysis.

INCLUDE KEYWORD(S)	<input type="text"/> <small>Note: the text descriptions for each record are very short and generally not sufficient for accurate keyword search.</small>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> search only selected topics/subtopics <input type="radio"/> search all topics/subtopics
FOR THESE YEARS OR LEGISLATIVE SESSION:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> the years from 1979 ▾ to 2010 ▾	<input type="radio"/> the Legislative Sessions from 1979-80 ▾ to 2009-10 ▾
GRAPH AS:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Number of cases per year or legislative session <input type="radio"/> Percent of all activity per year or legislative session <input type="radio"/> Percent of filtered activity per year or legislative session	
<input type="button" value="Reset Form"/> <input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>		

Using the PA Policy Database Analysis Tool - An Example

To take a simple example, suppose that a researcher wanted to explore the hypothesis that rising health care costs have been consuming attention and funds at the expense of state investments in education. Before undertaking the project, a researcher might well want to conduct a preliminary scan to test its plausibility and to identify key variables, the appropriate time span to cover, and perhaps which years appear to have been turning points (if any) and so would merit deeper investigation.

First the researcher may want to look at spending trends in education and health as well as the coinciding deficit or surplus of the Pennsylvania's General Fund balance. The following instructions will take a researcher step by step through our Analysis Tool in order to conduct such an inquiry.

Step 1 – Accessing the Analysis Tool

Click on the link for the Analysis Tool from our website at www.temple.edu/papolicy .

Or, enter the following address into your browser (case sensitive):

<http://policydb.temple.edu/PAPolicy/analysis.spg>

This should be the screen once the page loads.



PENNSYLVANIA POLICY DATABASE PROJECT

[About our data](#)
[Return to Pennsylvania Policy Project home page](#)

Build Your Own Policy Analysis Query

This form enables you to graph trends and download data from the main Pennsylvania Policy Project datasets. Scroll down the page for the available search options.

<p>DATASETS TO SEARCH:</p> <p><small>Keep scrolling down the page to select:</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional datasets • policy topics and key word search • time frame 	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Clips	<p>DATASET FILTERS <small>Pre-set to default values</small></p>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governing Magazine		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bills and Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Acts (Laws) and Adopted Resolutions		
	<input type="checkbox"/> House Hearings		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senate Hearings		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Service Agency Reports		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Budget Address		No Filters
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Orders		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Important Problem		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Spending All Funds <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Balance		
	<p>POLICY AREAS TO INCLUDE:</p> <p>Each record includes a short description (a sentence or phrase) of the item. This feature allows a text search of that field and will help identify the best topic from the list to the right.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To select multiple subtopics/topics, press the control (ctrl) key or Apple Command key while using your mouse to click on desired topics. • To select just major topic(s), select the option "All subtopics in ..." • To select <i>all</i> major topics, check the box "Search ALL topics ..." this will give you a breakdown of each policy topic • To combine all topics in to one figure and download link, do <i>not</i> select any of the policy topics check boxes or the "Search ALL topics" box. <input type="checkbox"/> Search ALL Topics, or select specific topics/subtopics from the lists below:
			<p>Agriculture</p> <input type="checkbox"/> All subtopics in Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Expand subtopics
	<p>Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce</p> <input type="checkbox"/> All subtopics in Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Expand subtopics		
	<p>Civil Rights and Liberties</p>		

Step 2 – Selecting Datasets

Below you see the top half of the analysis tool.

Here you can select which datasets you are interested in adding to your analysis. By clicking on the box and adding a check mark you are selecting the corresponding dataset.

When you have selected a dataset further options or filters will be displayed (if there are any). For this example we are going to select “Total Spending All Funds” and “General Fund Balance” but without including the Rainy Day fund:

DATASETS TO SEARCH:	DATASET FILTERS		
<p>Keep scrolling down the page to select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional datasets • policy topics and key word search • time frame 	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Clips		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governing Magazine		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bills and Resolutions		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts (Laws) and Adopted Resolutions		
	<input type="checkbox"/> House Hearings		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senate Hearings		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Service Agency Reports		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Budget Address	No Filters	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Orders		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Important Problem		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Spending All Funds	<input type="radio"/> Display Dollar Values	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>These options allow you to change how the Total Spending is displayed.</p> </div>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Fund Balance	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Display Percent of Total Spending	
<input type="checkbox"/> Include Rainy Day Fund <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Display Percent Change		
	<input type="radio"/> Un-adjusted Dollars		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Inflation-adjusted Dollars Base Year 2008		

With these options you can change the inflation-adjusted base year - however, if you have selected “Percent of total spending” above, this option will not change your results.

Step 3 – Selecting Topics

Below you can see a portion of our topic list within the analysis tool (this will be below the datasets section discussed in Step 2).

There are 20 policy topic areas you can choose from, and each topic also has a number of subtopics that can be selected. You can select as many topics or subtopics as you like, but you must at least choose one.

For this example we are choosing “All subtopics in Education” and “All subtopics in Health.”

The image shows a vertical list of policy topics, each with a blue header bar and two checkboxes below it. The topics are: Defense, Education, Energy, Environment, Fiscal and Economic Issues, Foreign Trade, Government Operations, Health, and International Affairs and Foreign Aid. The 'Education' and 'Health' sections are selected, indicated by a green checkmark in the 'All subtopics in' checkbox. Two black arrows point to these selected checkboxes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Defense
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Education	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Energy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Environment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Fiscal and Economic Issues	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Fiscal and Economic Issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Foreign Trade	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Foreign Trade
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Government Operations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Government Operations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
Health	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand subtopics
International Affairs and Foreign Aid	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All subtopics in International Affairs and Foreign Aid

Step 4 – Selecting Other Options

Below you see the bottom portion of the analysis tool. Here you have several options in how to further narrow down your inquiry.

For this example, we are going to use years rather than legislative sessions as the data points, and select 1979 through 2010. With the Spending Dataset, our options of how to graph the data are limited to the choices we made in Step 2.

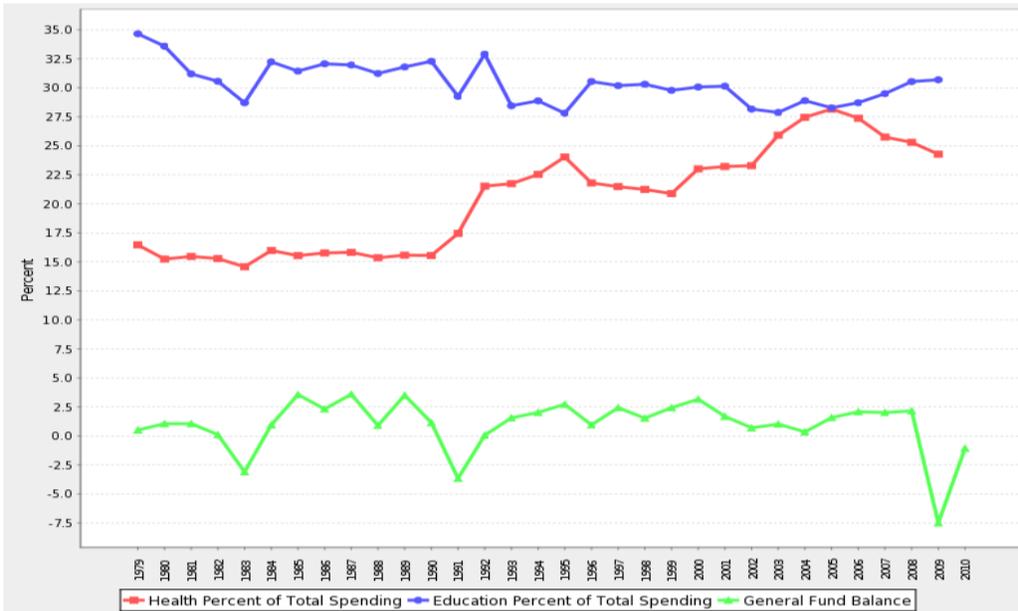
Once you have made these selections, you may press the “Search” button to submit your inquiry.

INCLUDE KEYWORD(S)	<input type="text"/> <small>Note: the text descriptions for each record are very short and generally not sufficient for accurate keyword search.</small>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> search only selected topics/subtopics <input type="radio"/> search all topics/subtopics
FOR THESE YEARS OR LEGISLATIVE SESSION:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> the years from <input type="text" value="1979"/> <input type="text" value="▼"/> to <input type="text" value="2010"/> <input type="text" value="▼"/>	<input type="radio"/> the Legislative Sessions from <input type="text" value="1979-80"/> <input type="text" value="▼"/> to <input type="text" value="2009-10"/> <input type="text" value="▼"/>
GRAPH AS:	<input type="radio"/> Number of cases per year or legislative session <input checked="" type="radio"/> Percent of all activity per year or legislative session <input type="radio"/> Percent of filtered activity per year or legislative session	
		<input type="button" value="Reset Form"/> <input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>

Step 5 – Results

Below are the results. If you have followed the steps above, your screen should load a similar page. This example displays graphically major trends in state policy. Clearly, health has been steadily gaining on education as a percentage of total state spending over most of the last 30 years. Until Fiscal Year 2005, health spending tended to increase more sharply -- and education spending to hold steady or decline -- when general fund balances dipped and state finances were under stress. After 2005, however, the pattern was reversed, with health losing ground to education, even as general fund balances were falling. The reversal was aided partly by federal stimulus funds whose net impact is not reflected in general fund balances in FY 2009 but is reflected in total spending, allowing the state to sustain education spending in the face of the 2008 recession.

The different colors and shapes of the markers denote the different datasets and policy areas. The percent is listed on the Y-axis and the legislative sessions are listed on the X-axis. The Analysis Tool produces the graph and table, the numerical values of which the graph is based. If you would like to copy and paste this data into an Excel simply highlight each of the cells, right click and choose copy. Then, open an Excel spreadsheet and right click on a single cell and choose “paste special,” then select either the “unicode text” or “text” option.



To download the image, right-click on the image

	Health Percent of Total Spending	Education Percent of Total Spending	General Fund Balance
1979	16.5%	34.7%	0.5%
1980	15.2%	33.6%	1.1%
1981	15.5%	31.2%	1.1%
1982	15.3%	30.6%	0.1%
1983	14.6%	28.7%	-3.1%
1984	16.0%	32.2%	1.0%
1985	15.5%	31.4%	3.6%
1986	15.8%	32.1%	2.3%
1987	15.8%	32.0%	3.6%
1988	15.4%	31.2%	0.9%
1989	15.6%	31.8%	3.5%
1990	15.6%	32.3%	1.2%
1991	17.4%	29.3%	-3.7%
1992	21.5%	32.9%	0.1%
1993	21.7%	28.5%	1.6%
1994	22.5%	28.9%	2.0%
1995	24.0%	27.8%	2.7%
1996	21.8%	30.5%	1.0%
1997	21.5%	30.2%	2.4%
1998	21.2%	30.3%	1.5%
1999	20.9%	29.8%	2.4%
2000	23.0%	30.1%	3.2%
2001	23.2%	30.1%	1.7%
2002	23.3%	28.2%	0.7%
2003	25.9%	27.9%	1.0%
2004	27.5%	28.9%	0.4%
2005	28.2%	28.3%	1.6%
2006	27.4%	28.7%	2.1%
2007	25.8%	29.5%	2.0%
2008	25.3%	30.5%	2.2%
2009	24.3%	30.7%	-7.5%
2010			-1.1%

At the top of the page you will see links to the raw data as an Excel spreadsheet. By clicking on one of these three links you will begin the download of the data described.

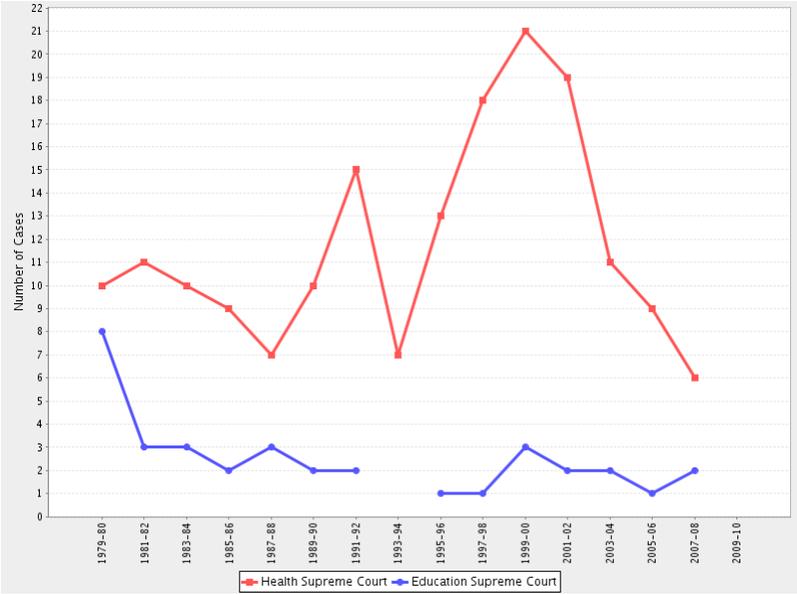
To download the raw data as an Excel spreadsheet, click on the link

[Health Percent of Total Spending](#)
[Education Percent of Total Spending](#) ←
[General Fund Balance](#)

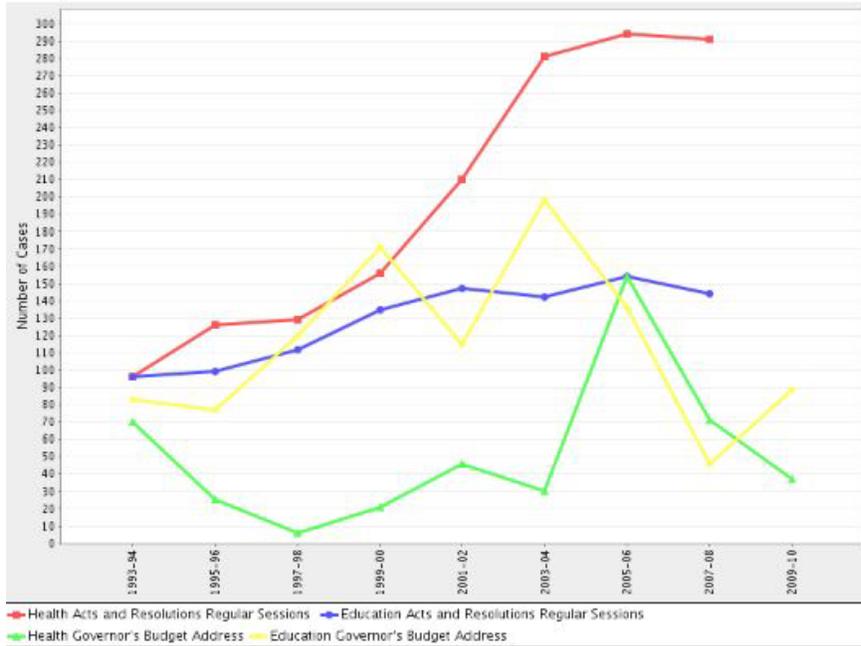


Step 6 - Further Investigation

Following similar procedures, users can determine whether the pattern of health gaining on education as a share of state spending is mirrored in the attention of the courts, the governor, and the legislature to these same policy topics. Here is the pattern for the Supreme Court, where health care opinions, many dealing with torts and insurance issues, clearly outnumber education opinions, including a 1999 decision that education funding is not subject to court review:



Zeroing in on the years since 1994, the priorities of the governor as reflected in his budget message, and the legislature as reflected in bills and resolutions adopted also appear similar. Focusing on the 2005-06 session, where the governor’s emphasis on health care peaks, one can view the portions of his budget messages dealing with health and education issues. Examples follow:



To download the image, right-click on the image

	Health Acts and Resolutions Regular Sessions	Education Acts and Resolutions Regular Sessions	Health Governor's Budget Address
1993-94	96	96	70
1995-96	126	99	25
1997-98	129	112	6
1999-00	156	135	21
2001-02	210	147	46
2003-04	281	142	30
2005-06	294	154	154
2007-08	291	144	71

By clicking on the links to bills or resolutions, one can see the full text of every bill and all of its amended versions, as well as its full legislative history. To see the excerpts of the Governors' Budget address for 2005-06 that deal with Health, select the corresponding link. The next page will display the excerpts with a link to the full address, and will look like the following excerpts:

Drilldown Results

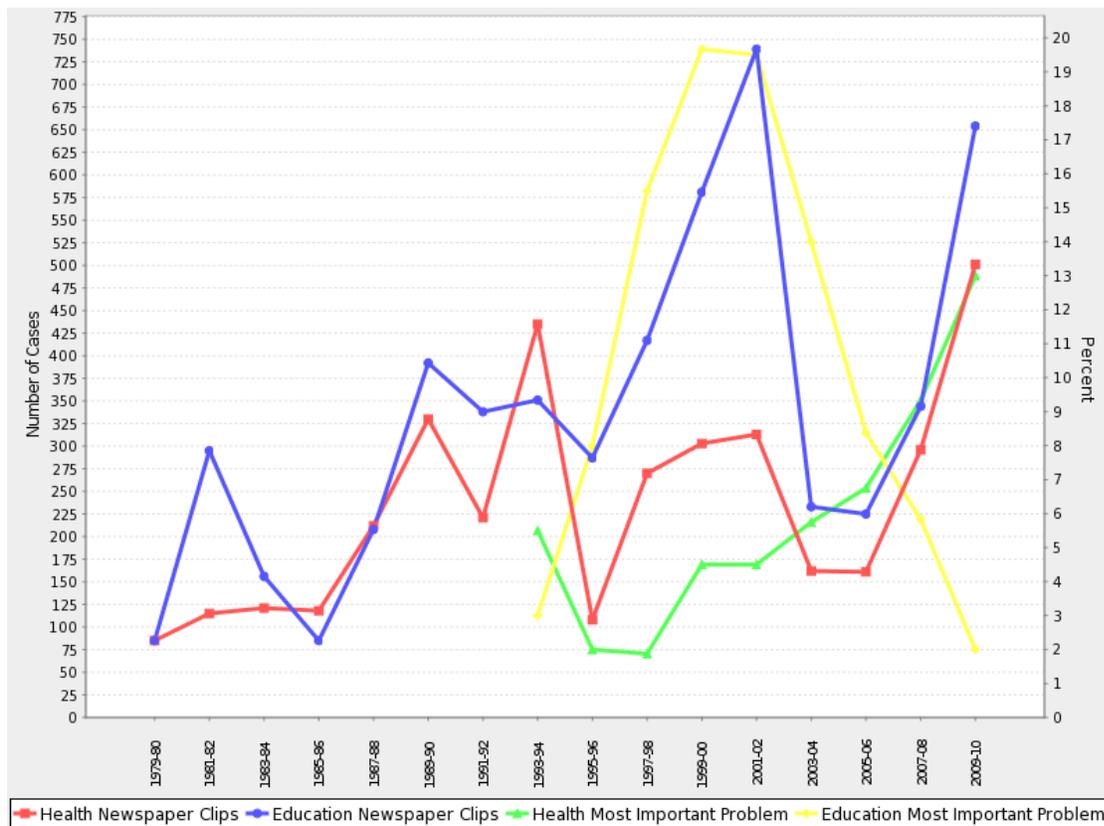
Day	Month	Year	Governor	Sentence	Code	Link
9	2	2005	Rendell	expansion of our PACE/PACENET program making prescription drugs more affordable for senior citizens;	335	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	You added tax increment financing for non-profits, such as Fox Chase Cancer Center;	398	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	water and sewer financing that will allow companies like Aventis Pasteur to expand production in Pennsylvania to meet the global need for flu vaccines and other medicines;	398	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	Today, because of the gains in our lottery, and the comprehensive PACE reform passed unanimously by both chambers, more than 70,000 older adults have been added to the rolls of our nationally recognized PACE and PACENET programs.	335	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	That's an increase of 32 percent	335	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	By the end of the year we expect to bring that total to 115,000 new seniors who get this great prescription drug coverage.	335	GBA?year=2005
9	2	2005	Rendell	By 2010 Pennsylvania is expected to have a shortage of 16,000 nurses.	325	GBA?year=2005

Understanding the Context of Policy Change

The analysis tools can also provide insight into the context of policy change. News reports, opinion polls, legislative hearings, and legislatively authorized studies can amplify understanding of the education and health care trends in legislation and governors' budget addresses.

News and Opinion

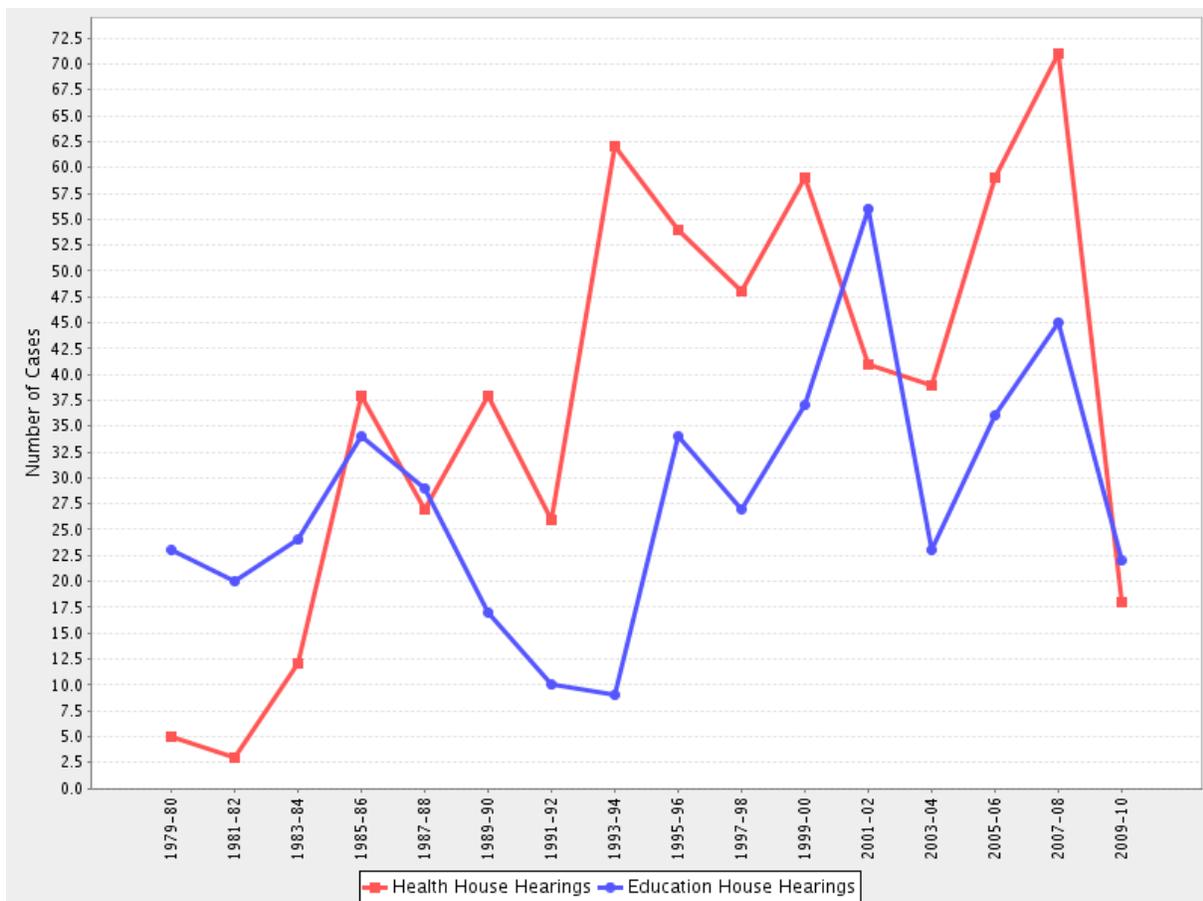
Governing Magazine and Newspaper Clips display abstracts of news stories about policy topics. *Governing* abstracts provide a national perspective. Newspaper clips provide a random sample of articles from Capitol news digests produced either by the governor's office or legislative press offices. The Most Important Problem (MIP) dataset reflects in percentages the views of Pennsylvanians on what problem needs the most attention from the government. Below, the left axis reflects the number of Capitol news digest stories on health and education and the right axis MIP percentages for these topics. Excerpts from 2009 health story abstracts are below the graph as examples of drill down results.



Newspaper	Day	Month	Year	Headline	Abstract	Code
The Sentinel	4	1	2009	Revisiting the State Smoking Ban	State Senator Stewart Greenleaf is planning to introduce a bill in the new session of the General Assembly that would eliminate some of the loopholes of Pennsylvania's smoking ban. In trying to create a more expansive law, Greenleaf plans to target exemptions for taverns that do less than 20 percent of their business in food and provisions that allow casinos to expand their smoking areas. The current exemptions undermine the original intent of the smoking ban; public health.	3
Los Angeles Times	6	1	2009	Healthcare Spending in US Slows	Although the growth rate of healthcare spending in the US was the lowest it's been in ten years, health care spending continued to rise steadily in 2007. Experts attribute the slowdown in growth to two factors: less growth in drug spending and slowing growth in Medicare administrative expenditures. This mild slump in spending comes as lawmakers are beginning to debate how to reshape the nation's healthcare system.	3
Pittsburgh Tribune Review	7	1	2009	Hospitals Hurting in Ailing Economy	The nation's economic crises is affecting Pennsylvania hospitals, as half of them are reporting fewer admissions for elective procedures. This trend exacerbates already existing problems with uncompensated care and jumps in labor, technology and utility costs. The Hospital and Health System Association of PA expects this trend to continue and conditions to worsen.	3

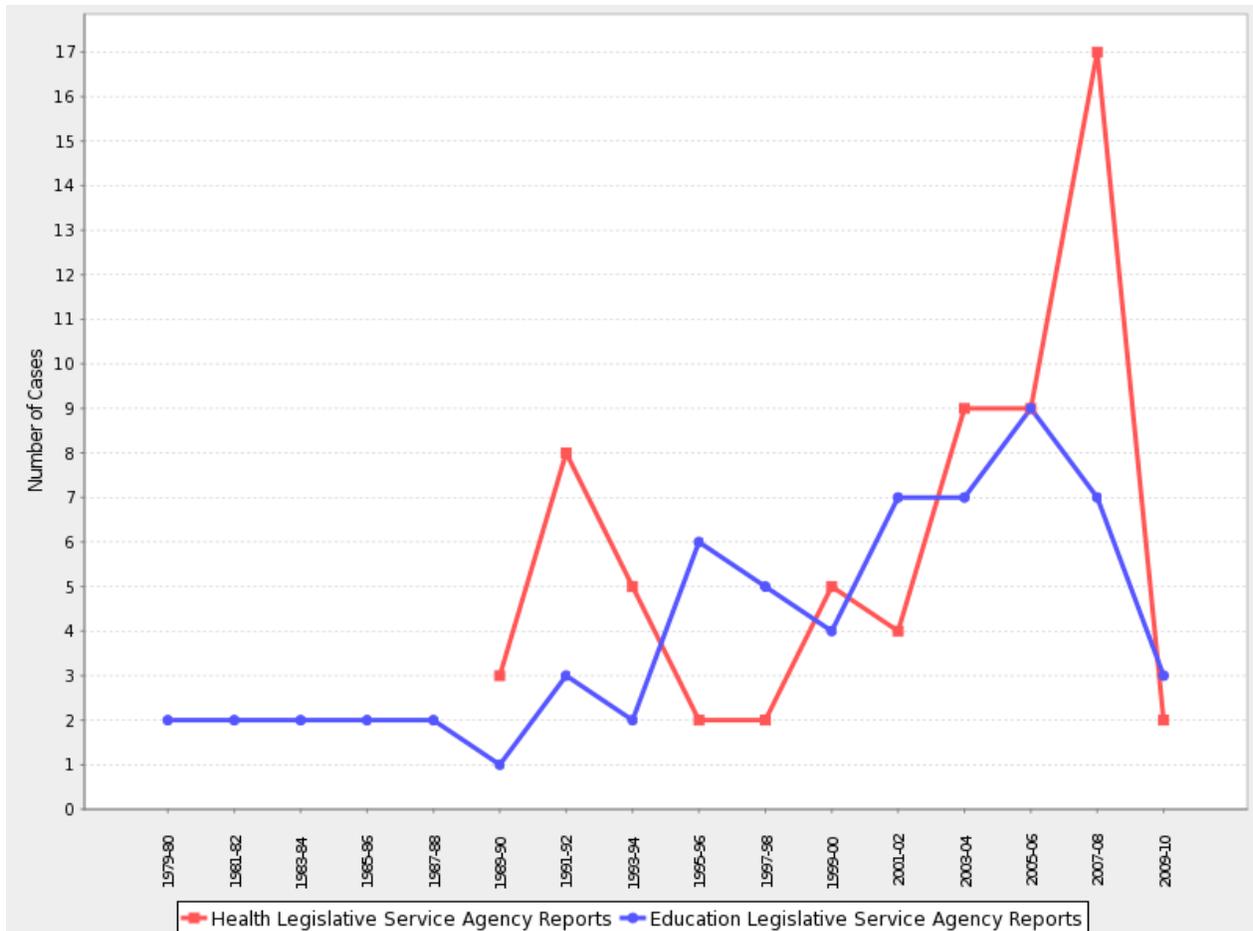
Legislative Hearings

The Legislative Hearings filter reflects similar trends in education and health care. For House hearings after 2009, users can click on links of the hearing abstracts to go to reports on committee actions, including votes and testimony that reflects arguments for and against bills. For hearings prior to 2009, users can identify hearing transcripts and other records that are available in the House archives. As indicated earlier, Senate hearing archives are incomplete. If the user does not indicate hearings for a specific committee, the database will present all hearings held in a particular policy area, regardless of which committees held the hearings. Below is the pattern for health and education hearings, regardless of committee. Many hearings on health bills, for example, were held by the House Insurance Committee and the House Professional Licensure Committee, among others. A few health hearings were held by the Education Committee. The drill-down tables will indicate the committee for each hearing.



Legislative Service Agency Reports

The General Assembly's service agencies conduct studies of important problems and issues, either in response to votes of one or both chambers or at the direction of the legislators who serve on its board. A researcher who chose this dataset for deeper insights into the increased attention to health as compared to education would see the following display:



Noting the dramatic increase in service agency reports on health, the researcher could click on the links for the 17 reports in the 2007-2008 session and find abstracts of studies aimed at identifying the drivers of state Medicaid spending, a summary of approaches other states are taking to control Medicaid costs, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the state’s Health Care Cost Containment Council, an evaluation of the state’s use of tobacco settlement funds, a review of state laws pertaining to child safety and approaches in other states to reducing childhood injuries and deaths, several studies of the state’s assisted living and long-term care policies, a study of community-based mental health programs, and six studies of health care problems in rural areas. Accompanying each abstract is a direct link to the full text of these studies.

Analyzing Legislative History

A unique feature of the Pennsylvania database, not available on its counterparts for the federal government or governments in other countries, is a set of filters that allow researchers to analyze legislation not just in terms of policy content but legislative history. As already noted, users can use the policy topics to isolate legislation in any of 20 major and more than 200 minor topics and then go directly to the legislative history and full text of any particular bill or resolution. In cases where the state database has embedded links to the legislative journal, users can also jump to the text of debate, including roll calls on amendments and final passage.

In addition to these *information retrieval* functions, however, users also have access to *pattern-recognition* functions that reflect the institutional behavior of the General Assembly, each of its two chambers, its many committees, its interactions with the governor, and the verdict of voters on proposed constitutional amendments. Researchers who select bills and resolutions or acts and adopted resolutions will immediately see a screen that allows them to apply a wide range of institutional filters to the data. Several examples will give users some idea of the wide range of possibilities. Some screen shots of the filters and resulting graphs are included below.

Examining Institutional Patterns for All Policy Topics

If users do not select any policy topic or combination of topics, the database will by default report data for all topics. This allows users to examine institutional patterns in the legislative process regardless of policy content.

Users can display all legislation by type (bills, resolutions, acts, and constitutional amendments) and then add filters to specify regular or special sessions, one or both chambers, the standing committees to which they were referred (either all committees or primary committee), the last action taken by either chamber (e.g., passed or defeated on the floor), conference committee referral if relevant, whether they were vetoed or signed by the governor or became law without the governor's signature, and if vetoed, and whether overridden by the legislature. For constitutional amendments, users can display proposals by whether they were approved by one session only or two consecutive sessions, and whether they were approved or defeated by the voters.

Example 1: Conference Committee Reports

By choosing bills and resolutions and then the conference committee filter, the user can immediately see the General Assembly's history since 1979 of employing conference committees and can draw down each report. If the user chose acts instead of bills, the database would report only conference committee reports that became law (shown in the graph below). If the user does choose one or more major or minor policy topics, the database would report conference committees for the topic(s) chosen. As the graph displays, conference committees decline dramatically after 1990.

Bills and Resolutions
 Acts (Laws) and Adopted Resolutions

- House
- Senate
- Acts and Adopted Resolutions
- Acts
- Adopted Resolutions
- Regular Sessions Only
- Special Sessions Only
- Both Regular and Special Sessions

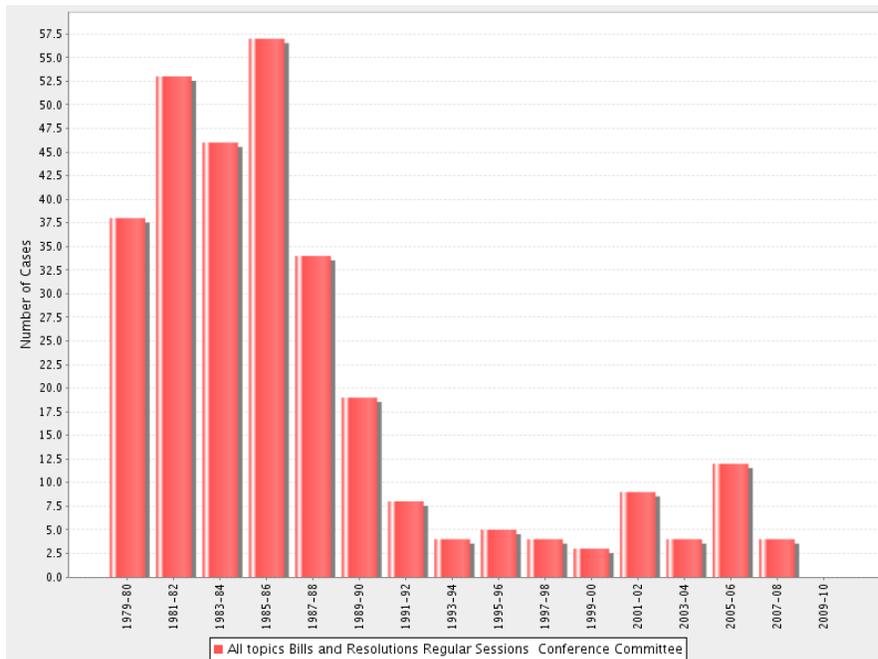
Referred to House Committee Primary Only
 ALL COMMITTEES

Referred to Senate Committee Primary Only
 ALL COMMITTEES

Conference Committee

House Last Action
 no filter

Senate Last Action



By clicking on one of the Links in the Excel table that accompanies this graph, the researcher can go to the summary of every bill to emerge from a conference committee and a link to its legislative history and the full text of every amended version. An example follows:

Session	Bill	Abstract	Code	Link
1983-84	HB 5	An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding definitions; further providing for certain bonding requirements; restricting the operations of certain combinations; further providing for the length and width of certain vehicles; regulating certification of certain auto inspection mechanics; further providing for certain weight limitations; and requiring axle tax markers.	1006	http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/BH/1983/0/HB0005.HT

By clicking on the link for House Bill 5, the user can call up the history of this legislation. By clicking on the link to the Printer's No., the user can see the final version the bill (now a conference committee report) that was passed by the House or Senate. The links to the Prior Printer's Nos. will display each version of the bill as it was amended during the legislative process. The links to dates in the history will take the user to the *Legislative Journal*, where roll call votes on final passage and on amendments can be found and where debate is recorded. Below is the history for House Bill 5 of the 1983-84 session.

HB5 By Representatives PETRARCA, GLADECK, MANDERINO, ITKIN, IRVIS, BURD, STAIRS, COLE, DUFFY, LASHINGER, OLASZ, PISTELLA, SEVENTY, RIEGER, VAN HORNE, KUKOVICH, MACKOWSKI, E. Z. TAYLOR and GEIST.

Prior Printer's Nos. [11](#), [839](#), [907](#), [959](#), [984](#), [985](#), [1035](#), [1087](#), [1119](#).

Printer's No. [1404](#).

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding definitions; further providing for certain bonding requirements; restricting the operations of certain combinations; further providing for the length and width of certain vehicles; regulating certification of certain auto inspection mechanics; further providing for certain weight limitations; and requiring axle tax markers.

Referred to TRANSPORTATION, Jan. 24, 1983
Reported as committed, Feb. 8, 1983
First consideration, Feb. 8, 1983
Laid on the table, Feb. 8, 1983
Removed from table, Feb. 16, 1983
Second consideration, March 14, 1983
Third consideration and final passage, March 15, 1983 (160-32)
(Remarks see House Journal Page [192-193](#)), March 15, 1983
In the Senate
Referred to TRANSPORTATION, March 16, 1983
Reported as amended, April 13, 1983
First consideration, April 13, 1983
Amended on second consideration, [April 18, 1983](#)
Second consideration, with amendments, [April 25, 1983](#)
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 387-396), April 25, 1983
Amended on third consideration, [April 26, 1983](#)
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 411-415), April 26, 1983
Third consideration and defeated on final passage,
April 27, 1983 (23-26)
Vote by which this bill was defeated on final passage,
reconsidered, April 27, 1983
(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 421-436), April 27, 1983
Vote on third consideration reconsidered, May 3, 1983
Amended on third consideration, [May 3, 1983](#)
Laid on the table, May 4, 1983
Removed from table, May 9, 1983
Amended on third consideration, [May 10, 1983](#)
Third consideration and final passage, May 10, 1983 (31-15)

(Remarks see Senate Journal Page 489-499), May 10, 1983
In the House
House non-concurred in Senate amendments, May 24, 1983 (3-193)
(Remarks see House Journal Page [580-597](#)), May 24, 1983
In the Senate
Senate insists on its amendments non-concurred in the House, May 31, 1983
Senate appoints Senators KUSSE, O'CONNELL and FUMO a committee of conference, June 1, 1983
In the House
House insists on its non-concurrence in Senate amendments, June 6, 1983
House appoints Representatives PETRARCA, PISTELLA and GEIST a committee of conference, June 6, 1983
Conference committee report presented in House, June 14, 1983
(Remarks see House Journal Page [740-742](#)), June 14, 1983
In the Senate
Conference Report presented and laid on the table, June 14, 1983
In the House
Conference committee report adopted by House, June 21, 1983 (136-59)
In the Senate
Conference committee report adopted by Senate, June 28, 1983 (31-17)
Vote reconsidered, June 28, 1983
Conference committee report adopted by Senate, June 28, 1983 (29-20)
Signed in House, June 29, 1983
Signed in Senate, June 29, 1983
In hands of the Governor, July 1, 1983
Last day for action, July 11, 1983
Approved by the Governor, July 7, 1983

Example 2: Vetoes and Vetoes Overridden by the General Assembly

By choosing bills and resolutions and then vetoes, a researcher can identify all bills vetoed by the governor. A researcher could also exclude all vetoes overridden by the General Assembly. The user could specify vetoes and overrides in any policy topic or combination of topics.

Sponsor Party
 no filter Republican Democrat Both

Vetoed
 no filter Exclude Include

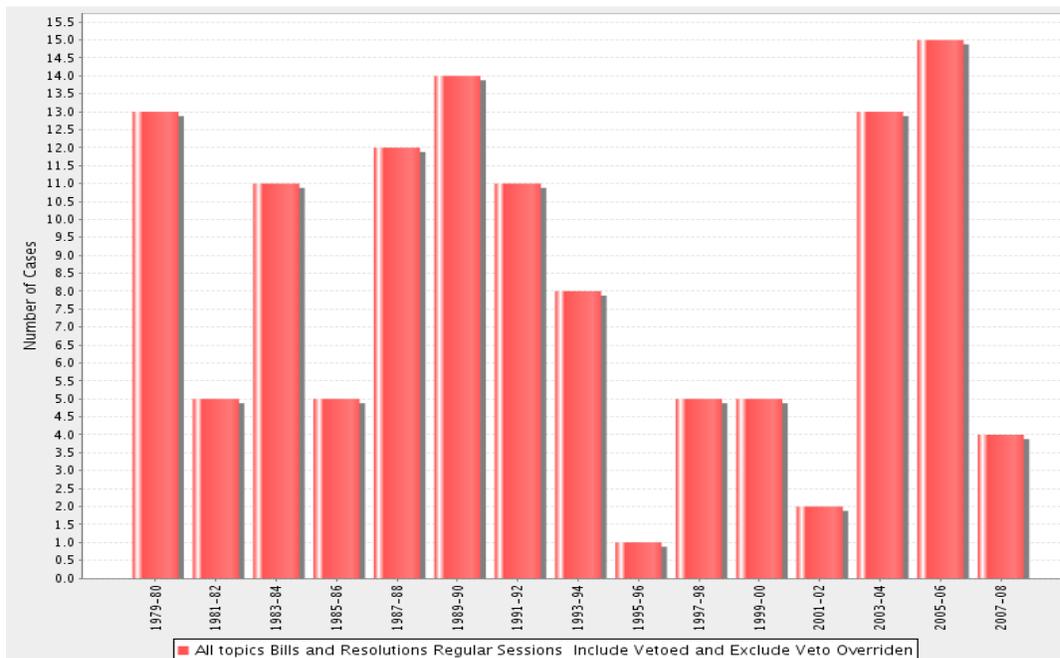
Line Item Veto
 no filter Exclude Include

Veto Overriden
 no filter Exclude Include

Law Without Governor's Signature
 no filter Exclude Include

To download the raw data as an Excel spreadsheet, click on the link

[All topics Bills and Resolutions Regular Sessions Include Vetoed and Exclude Veto Overriden](#)



Combining Policy Topics and Institutional Filters

It is important to remember that the project organizes data primarily by policy topic and that institutional filters are a secondary tool. As we have already seen, a researcher can use the database to compare the legislature's relative attention to policy topics such as health and education regardless of institutional filters, such as committee referrals. The researcher can also

view institutional decision making regardless of policy topic, such as conference reports, vetoes, vetoes overridden, bills passed by one chamber and not the other, constitutional amendments passed or defeated by the legislature or the voters, etc.

As the examples below show, a researcher also can combine policy topics and institutional filters to zero in on specific types of bills.

Example 3: Health Bills Sent to the Senate Education Committee

A researcher could call up all legislation sent to the Senate Education Committee regardless of policy content, either in total or just as the primary committee. The researcher also could choose health as a policy topic and call up all health care bills sent to the Senate Education Committee. By applying other filters, a researcher also could isolate all bills that were never reported from the committee, all that became acts, all that were passed by one house and not the other, all that were vetoed, etc. By choosing to expand the subtopics under health and selecting minor topics, the researcher also could zero in on health bills that dealt with drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse and were sent to the Education Committee.

- Bills and Resolutions
 - House
 - Senate
 - Bills and Resolutions
 - Bills
 - Resolutions
 - Regular Sessions Only
 - Special Sessions Only

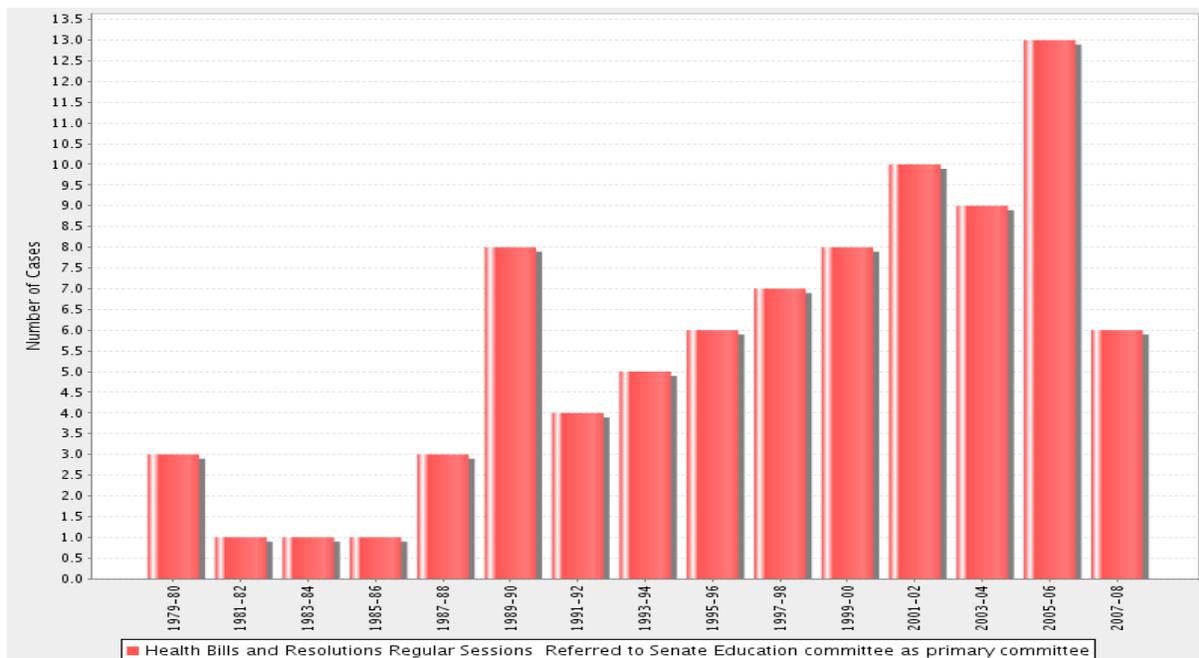
Referred to House Committee Primary Only

ALL COMMITTEES

Referred to Senate Committee Primary Only

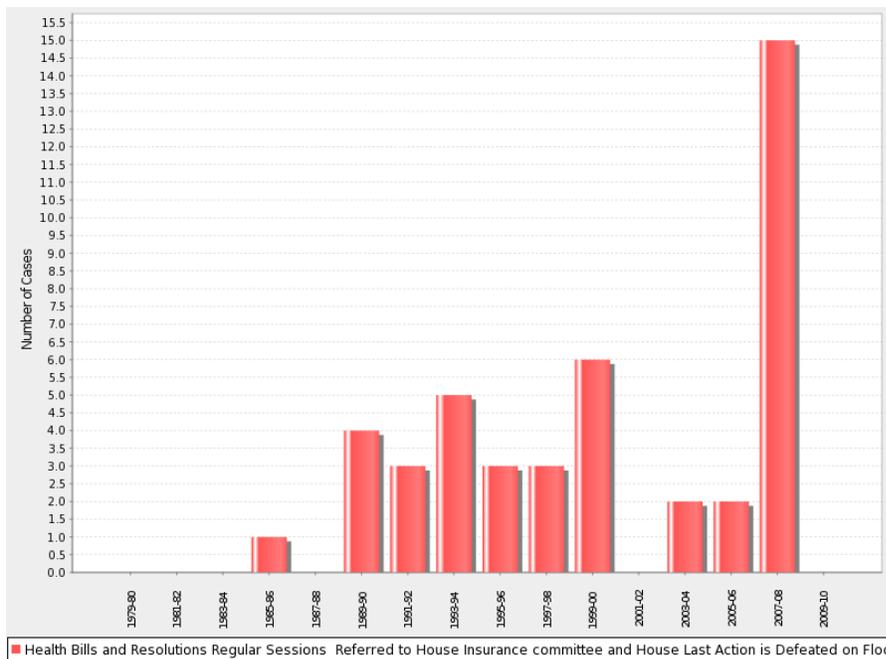
Education

Conference Committee



Example 4: “Last Action” Filters

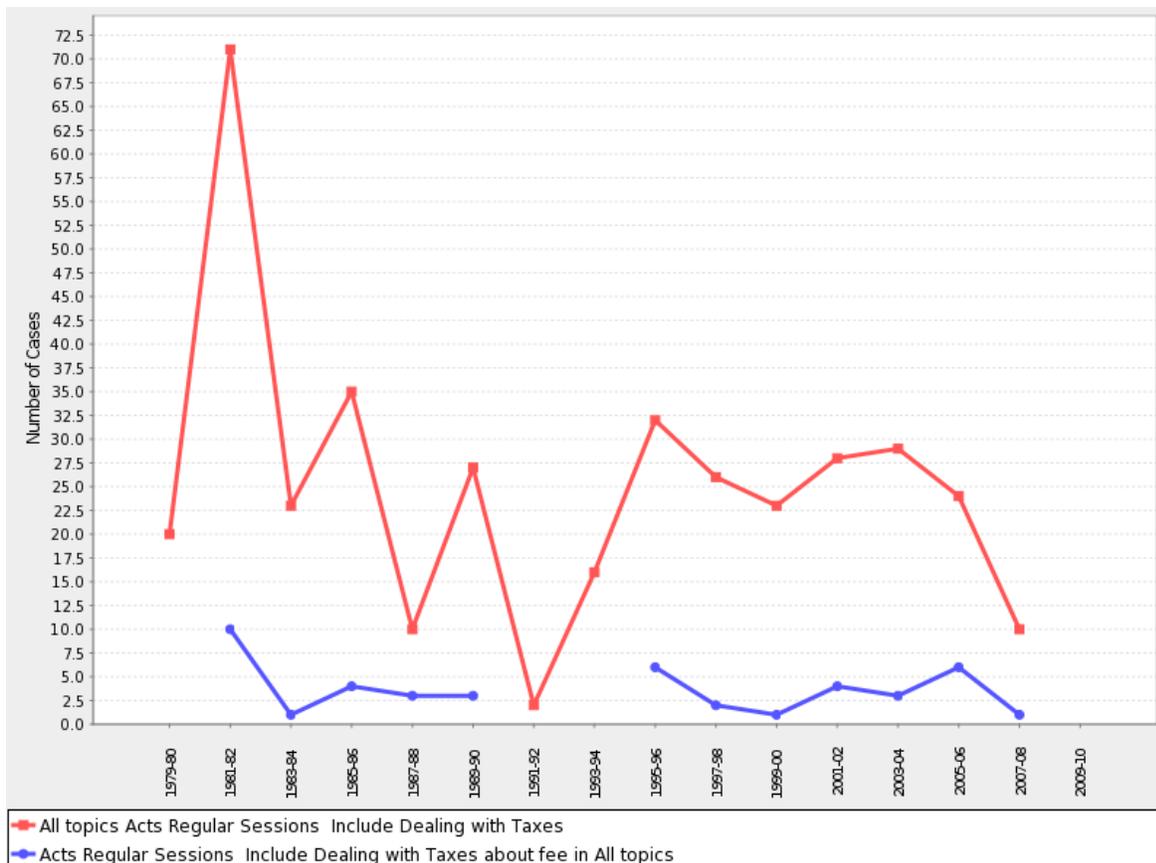
This example combines a policy topic dataset (health bills) with two institutional filters, the primary committee referral and the “last action” filter. A researcher could specify health care bills that were sent to the House Insurance Committee and that were defeated or deferred on the House floor. This filter reports not just bills that were defeated on roll call votes but bills that were reported to the floor but not passed for any reason, including being sent back to the same committee, being sent to another committee, being tabled, or simply being left on the calendar when the chamber adjourned. Other last actions are shown in the selection example below.



Example 5: Other Cross-Cutting Filters: Bills and Acts Affecting Taxes or the Elderly

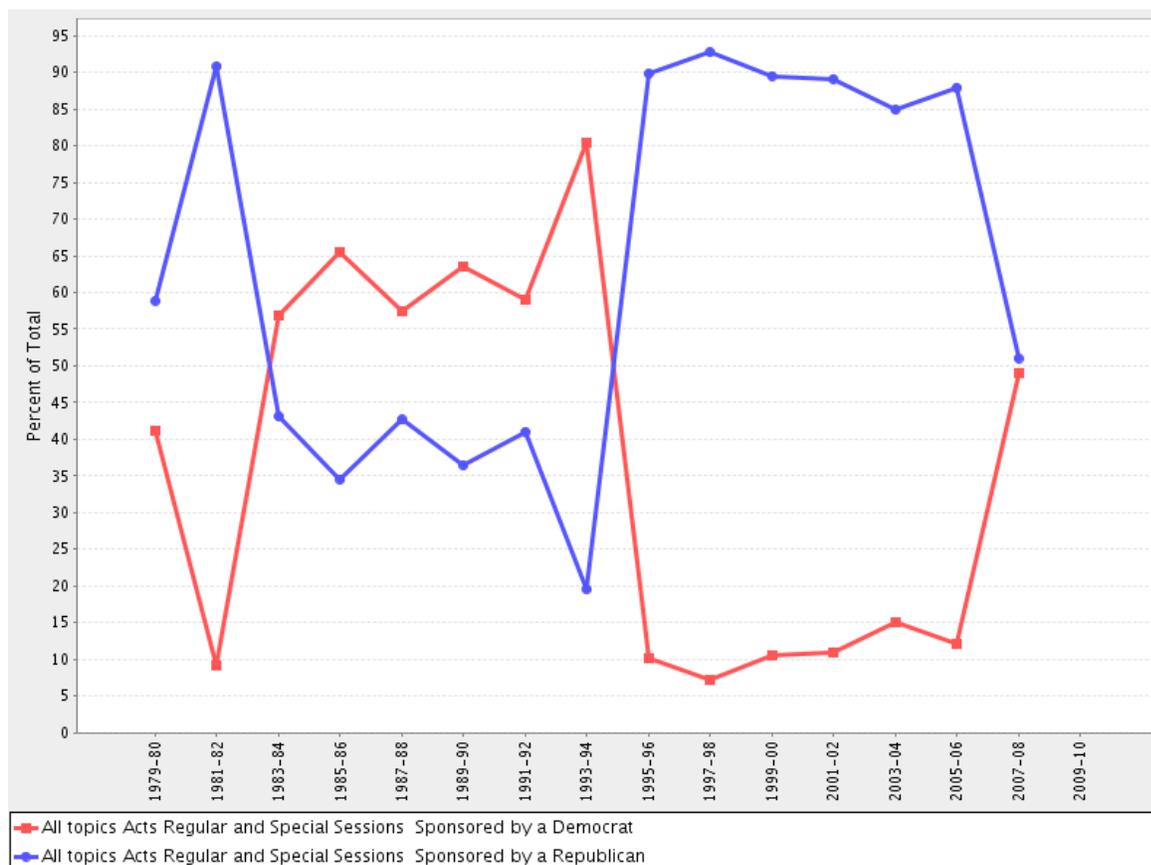
A researcher also could call up legislation for any policy topic or combination of topics that includes tax provisions or that affects the elderly. The tax filter, for example, will produce legislation not just under 107, state taxes, which captures the principal revenue raising measures that support the general fund, but under a wide range of other topics, including 2404, revenues supporting local governments; cigarette taxes, often found under minor topic 341 (tobacco abuse treatment) if the funds are dedicated to health care; and gasoline taxes, found under minor topic 1002 (highway construction and maintenance), if the revenues are used to support highway construction. Similarly, the elderly filter would produce bills not only under 1303 (assistance for the elderly) but under topics like 334 (long-term care), 1408 (housing for the elderly and handicapped), 503 (private employee benefits, including for retirement) and 2004 (public employee benefits, including for retirement). The drill down display would indicate each bill's policy code.

It should be noted that both the tax filter and 2404, which deals with local government and school district revenues, will capture revenue raising measure such as fees as well as taxes. A researcher could use keyword search to isolate measures that deal only with fees.

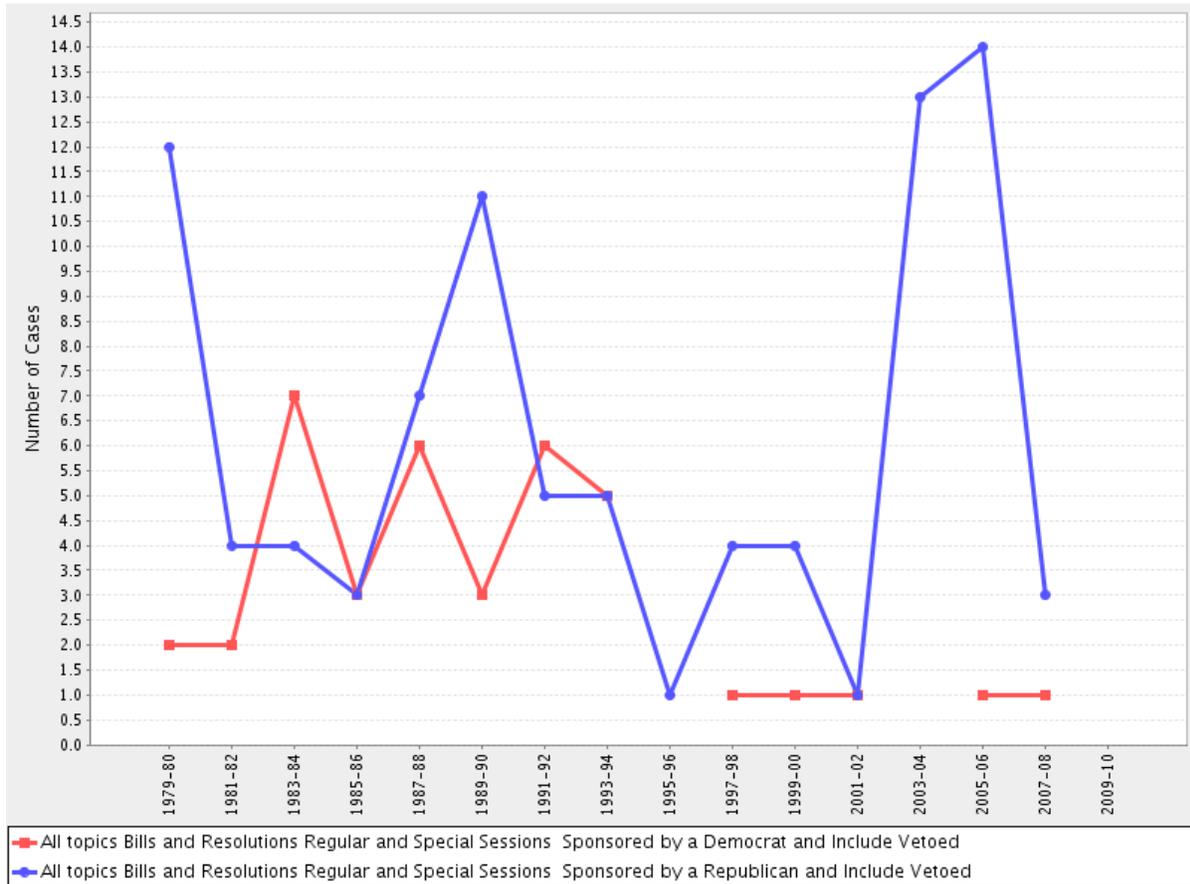


Analyzing Legislation by Party Sponsorship

Party caucuses are important but extra-constitutional institutions in almost all American legislatures, yet many government archives do not organize their records to facilitate analysis of the parties' role in policymaking. Pennsylvania's *Legislative Journal*, for example, reports roll call votes without identifying party membership, and the General Assembly's website does not provide a tool for identifying bills, resolutions, or acts by party of the chief sponsor. Yet, scholars, students, reporters, and voters are interested in the roles of parties. Like the national Policy Agendas database, the Temple database enables researchers to call up all legislation introduced or enacted for any particular policy topic, or for all topics, sponsored by a Democrat or by a Republican, or, by choosing both parties, to display the patterns of party sponsorship on the same graph, as is done for all acts below. Note that the two lines on the graphs are mirror images of one another. Democrats sponsored the majority of acts under a Democratic governor (1987-94), Republicans under a GOP governor, especially with control of both chambers (1995-2002), and Republicans held their own under a Democratic governor, until 2007, when Democrats also gained the House. Note that the same analysis could be performed for only House bills or acts or for only Senate bills or acts.

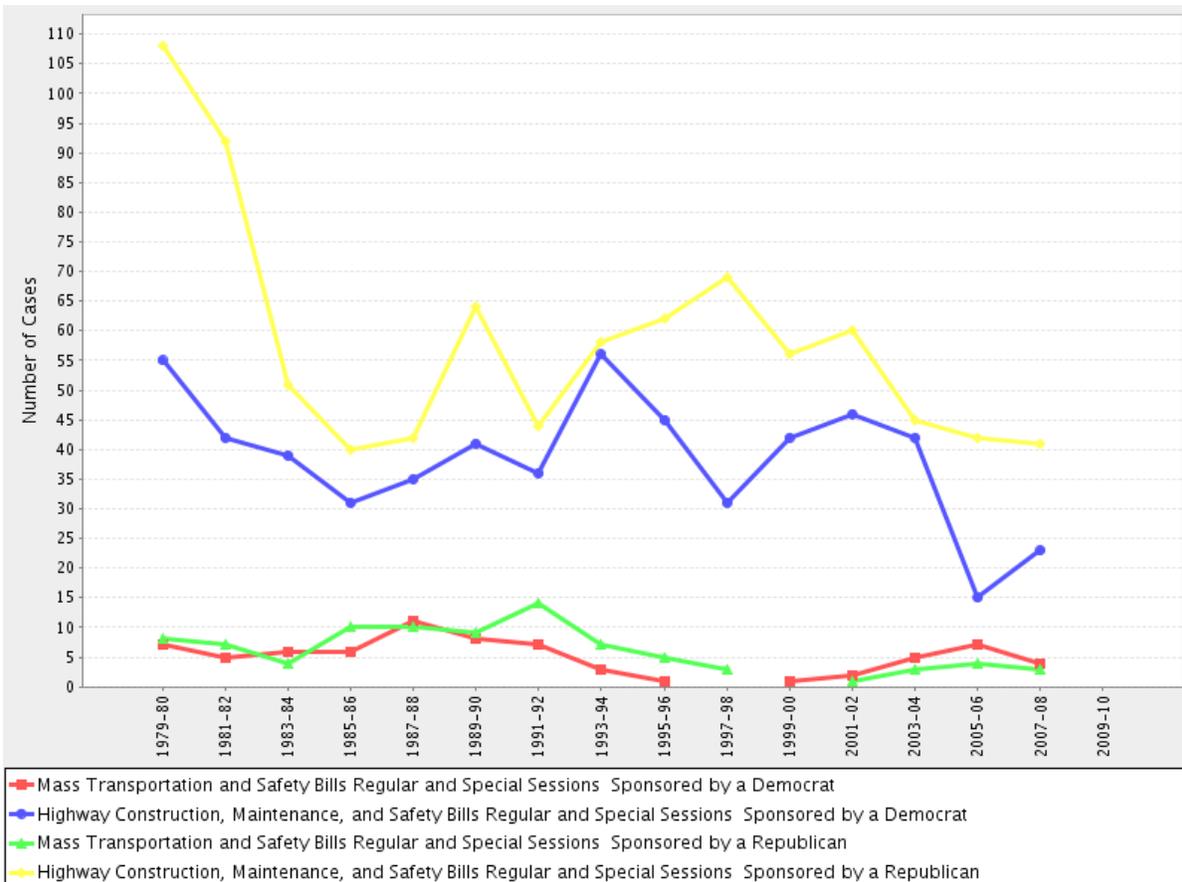


The party analysis filter can be combined with other institutional filters, as is shown below for bills sponsored by both parties that were vetoed by the governor. Note that this graph displays raw counts of bills rather than percentages, which for vetoed bills are infinitesimally small.



Combining Party Analysis with Policy Analysis

The party filter also can be used to analyze party differences or similarities in policy areas. Note that in the graph below, Democratic and Republican sponsorship patterns are similar for mass transit legislation, perhaps an unexpected result given that more Democrats than Republicans represent urban areas, but that Republicans have consistently sponsored more highway bills, as might be expected, given the suburban and rural base of the GOP. Even where party attention to topics is similar, of course, content analysis might reveal different party approaches to problems.



II. Codebook

Topics Codebook

Code	Category
1	Fiscal and Economic Issues
2	Civil Rights and Liberties
3	Health
4	Agriculture
5	Labor, Employment, Immigration
6	Education
7	Environment
8	Energy
10	Transportation
12	Law, Crime, and Family
13	Social Welfare
14	Community Development, Housing Issues
15	Banking, Finance, Domestic Commerce
16	Defense
17	Space, Science, Technology, Communications
18	Foreign Trade
19	International Affairs and Foreign Aid
20	State Government Operations
21	Public Lands and Water Management
24	Local Government and Governance

Note: The Pennsylvania State Codebook is modeled on the national public policy codebook developed for the national public policy database available at www.policyagendas.org. As such, some categories and examples cited herein are more relevant to federal than to state law and policies. These categories and examples have been retained for the purpose of helping users understand the relationship between the two databases. The Pennsylvania database also includes codes not found in the national database, but these have been kept to a minimum. The most important example is major topic 24, which in the national database is “State and Local Government Administration” and in the Pennsylvania database is “Local Government and Governance.” The Pennsylvania database also includes important subtopic codes not found in the national database such as 1213 “Property and Real Estate Law” and 1527 “Regulation of Services.”

Each code has subcodes organized around a specific policy topic. However, two subcodes are common to each code. The 00 subcode of every policy area (i.e. 700, 2400) is designed for data of a general nature relating to the policy topic, or for data that includes combinations of multiple subtopics. The 99 subcode of every policy area (i.e. 799, 2499) is designed for data that relates to the overall policy topic of a code, but does not fit into any of the existing subcodes of that topic. For example, the issue of “retirement and lifelong learning” falls into the overall 600 education code. However, this issue does not fit into any of the subtopics, so it should be coded as 699.

Coding Scheme

1. Fiscal and Economic Issues

100: General Fiscal and Economic Issues (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: economic plans, economic conditions and issues, economic growth and outlook, state of the economy, long-term economic needs, recessions, general economic policy, promotion of economic recovery, demographic changes, population trends, recession effects on state and local economies, distribution of income.

101: Inflation, Prices, and Interest Rates

Examples: inflation control and reduction, anti-inflation programs, calculation of inflation statistics and price index statistics, consumer price index, food prices, cost of living, interest rates, effects of inflation on business, general economic statistics.

103: Unemployment Rate

Examples: unemployment and employment statistics, economic and social impact of unemployment, national employment priorities, employment and labor market development, government reports on unemployment.

See also: 502, 503 solutions to unemployment problems.

104: Monetary Supply, Federal Reserve Board, Treasury, and the Pennsylvania Treasurer

Examples: appropriations affecting the state treasurer, state investment and cash management policies.

105: State Operating (General Fund) Budget, State Capital Budget and Debt

The state general appropriations act is affectively the operating budget and is always coded 105. It begins “An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, public debt and for the public schools...”

Examples: administration's yearly budget proposals, budget process, budget projections including revenue estimates, increases in the public debt limit, impact of budget reductions on economic sectors, states and communities, public debt issues, changes in fiscal year status, changes in rules governing passage of capital or operating budgets, appropriations into and out of

the Rainy Day Fund (or Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund), tax anticipation notes, tax and expenditure limits.

107: State Taxation, State Tax policy, and Reform of State Taxes

Examples: administration tax proposals, state income and sales taxes, tax code, state taxes on businesses, state tax reform, state tax collection, revenue acts, impact of taxes on business, multiple tax changes, general tax changes incorporating multiple types of taxes, acts providing a one-time tax refund to all personal income taxpayers, acts establishing classes of income tax rates, state tax amnesty, taxes on public utility gross receipts and real property, general investment tax credit programs where no one specific purpose is designated.

See also: 302 providing a tax credit for medical expenses; 341 providing for incidence and rate of the cigarette tax; 405 exempting pet grooming services from sales tax; 503 tax treatment of employee benefits; 508 child-care tax credit; 601 tax credit for attendance at Commonwealth universities and colleges; 607 tax credits for computer, scientific and video audio equipment and services donated to schools by business; 609 income tax check-off to provide funding for the arts; 704 environmental remediation tax credit; 707 exempting equipment used for recycling from sales and use tax; 1002 liquid fuels tax, gas tax and highway use tax; 1209 non-taxable status of benefit sales by volunteer fire organizations; 1212 inheritance tax; 1213 issues involving the realty transfer tax; 1302 poverty exemptions to state and local taxes; 1305 sales tax exemptions for charitable, volunteer and religious organizations; 1403 PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) used to facilitate the construction of stadiums and similar economic development projects; hotel room sales taxes used to support the construction of convention centers; 1505 insurance premiums tax; 1524 hotel room sales taxes used to support promotion of tourism; 1528 increases in liquor taxes; 1609 providing tax exemptions for veterans and surviving spouses of veterans; 1709 sales tax exclusion for sales of computer software; 2009 PA Department of Revenue, creation of a Taxpayers' Rights Advocate, Taxpayers' Bill of Rights; 2016 taxation of lottery winners; 2404 state authorizations and limitations on local government taxation, local tax reform, property tax relief, local tax amnesty, and legislation amending Act 511 the Local Tax Enabling Act; 602 Business tax credit programs for investments in education.

108: Industrial Policy

Examples: manufacturing strategy, technological capacity of industry, assistance to specific industries, industrial policy, industry revitalization and growth, decline in state industrial productivity, plant closings and relocation, industrial reorganization, commission on productivity, industrialization centers, extending tax or subsidy benefits to a Pennsylvania or United States business such as steel producers.

See also: 1411 general state economic development; 1806 state international economic competitiveness; 2007 requirements for government and government contractors to purchase products produced in Pennsylvania or the United States.

110: Price Control and Stabilization

Examples: price stabilization programs.

199: Other

2. Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties

200: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission appropriations; civil rights violations; state compliance with federal civil rights laws; Equal Rights amendment; equal employment opportunity laws, civil rights enforcement; employment or housing discrimination involving several communities (age, gender, race, religion, etc. in combination); issues affecting private property rights; news stories about multiple “culture wars” issues that cross topic areas (e.g., abortion, academic freedom, intelligent design, defining marriage as a heterosexual institution).

See also: 1208 marriage and family issues; 1209 Miranda-related rights; 1210 hate crimes sentencing enhancement act; 1213 property and real estate law.

201: Ethnic Minority and Racial Group Discrimination

Examples: minority contracting and business development, appointment of minorities as officials and judges, school desegregation, state hiring and promotion of minorities, race-based crimes, affirmative action programs, racial profiling issues, designation of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday week, English as official language.

See also: 602 school bus and school bus drivers' issues; 603 education of underprivileged students.

202: Gender and Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Examples: discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, social security inequities affecting women, employment barriers to women, female salary inequities, sex discrimination regulations, equal pay for women.

See also: 1208 marriage and family issues.

204: Age Discrimination

Examples: age discrimination in employment, mandatory retirement ages, age discrimination in selection of judges, problems in enforcing age discrimination laws, retirement age policies.

205: Handicap or Disease Discrimination

Examples: discrimination against the disabled, airline discrimination against blind people, employment of persons with disabilities, insurance discrimination of blind people, civil rights of institutionalized persons and the mentally retarded, travel problems of the handicapped, discrimination based on genetics or health conditions.

206: Voting Rights and Issues

Examples: discriminatory barriers to voting registration, state compliance with federal laws and regulations regarding voting, voting rights of prisoners.

See also: 2012 regulation of elections.

207: Freedom of Speech and Religion

Examples: religious freedom, physical desecration of the flag, school prayer, religious speech protection, anti-obscenity legislation, shield laws to protect news sources.

See also: 601 academic freedom in higher education; 602 vouchers and other aid to parochial schools; 1707 broadcast industry regulation.

208: Right to Privacy and Access to Government Information

Examples: privacy of consumer and worker records, employee drug and polygraph testing, computer access and security, police wiretapping, privacy of medical records, access to government records and information, disclosure and confidentiality standards for government information, electronic funds transfer and financial privacy, security and privacy of criminal arrest records, state open records, open meeting and sunshine laws.

See also: 1210 Illegal searches.

209: Anti-Government Activities

210: Abortion and Alternatives to Abortion

Examples: government funding of abortions and alternatives to abortion.

See also: 1208 marriage and family issues.

299: Other

Examples: anti-discrimination based on marital status.

3. Health

300: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: PA Department of Health appropriations, commissions to study health issues.

301: Comprehensive Healthcare Reform

Examples: proposals to reform broader healthcare system (rather than specific aspects of a program), federal delegation of responsibilities to the state, changing responsibilities of the state, regulation of state health care, initiatives in women's health, initiatives in rural health, Medicare policies affecting the state, Medicaid payments, comprehensive Medicaid reform, minority health issues.

See also: 302 insurance reform; 334 long-term healthcare reform; 335 prescription drug coverage and cost; 1609 Veterans' health benefits.

302: Insurance Reform, Availability, and Cost

Examples: access, eligibility, the uninsured, establishment of tax free medical savings accounts, regulation of the individual insurance market, regulation of HMOs and insurers with respect to general availability of coverage (e.g. patients' bill of rights), enrollment mix requirements for HMOs, provision of a tax credit for medical expenses.

See also: 208 privacy of medical records; 331-36 specific benefits; 334 long-term care insurance.

303: Regulation of Drug Industry, Medical Devices, and Clinical Labs

Examples: generally about safety of products and procedures, approval processes, drug labeling and marketing, organ transplant allocations, safety of the blood supply, faulty cholesterol screening, prescription drug counterfeiting, pacemaker regulation, prescription drug labeling, over-the-counter drug safety, fatal allergic reactions to drugs, drug abuse in nursing homes, vitamin, mineral and diet supplements, regulation of drug marketing procedures.

See also: 335 prescription drug costs; 398 research; 1520 for antitrust issues.

322: Facilities Construction, Regulation, and Payments

Examples: construction of hospitals, laboratories, health centers and nursing homes, including issues of undersupply in rural or urban areas (disproportionate share payments to hospitals), emergency care facilities, regulation of standards and activities within these facilities, including personnel qualifications, nursing home standards, nursing home regulation, nursing home building regulations, medical lab reliability issues, state conveyances of hospitals, non-preferred appropriations to hospitals and health care institutions and organizations.

See also: 323 payments to providers; 601 general aid to medical schools and teaching hospitals in Pennsylvania.

323: Provider and Insurer Payment and Regulation

Examples: state and federal reimbursement rates and methods for physicians, insurance companies, or specific procedures, peer review procedures, prospective payment system (PPS), appeals processes, payment rates for HMO services, regional adjustments, risk adjustment, reimbursement for chiropractors and alternative medicine providers such as acupuncturists, foreign medical graduates, nurse practitioners, payment for outpatient services.

See also: 302 insurer or managed care consumer protections; 325 medical workforce training programs; 503 employee benefits.

324: Medical Liability, Fraud and Abuse

Examples: malpractice issues, fraudulent medical degrees, unfair sales practices, misuse of federal and state funds for mental health care, Medicaid over-billing, conflicts of interest, medical malpractice insurance coverage, revocation of physician licenses, suspension of physician privileges, dispute resolution for medical malpractice claims, unfair sales practices in the diet and medical industries, liability protection for state-employed physicians, creation of the medical professional liability catastrophe loss fund.

See also: 325 for physician certification and licensing.

325: Health Manpower and Training, and Licensing Issues

Examples: issues of undersupply and oversupply of health personnel, including incentives to practice in underserved areas, certification and licensing procedures, coverage of services provided by training programs and medical schools, reimbursement rates for teaching hospitals, collective bargaining, health manpower training, nurse training, public health training grants, physician training, medical libraries, nurse midwifery, licensing of dentists, licensing of optometrists, licensing of chiropractors, licensing of nurses, licensing of osteopathic doctors, licensing of pharmacists, disproportionate share payments and undersupply issues.

See also: 323 compensation and regulation of health care providers; 324 malpractice issues; 405 animal and crop disease and pest control; 601 general aid to medical schools and teaching hospitals in Pennsylvania.

331: Prevention, Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion

Examples: cancer screening, health promotion programs, consumer guides, medical information, health education in schools, immunization, prevention programs for osteoporosis, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, government responses to AIDS, breast cancer prevention programs, skin cancer, renal disease, treatment of high blood pressure, Legionnaire's disease, communicable disease control, sickle cell anemia prevention, polio, designation of American Heart Month.

See also: 208 right to privacy; 336 breast cancer treatment programs; 341-44 drug and tobacco programs.

332: Infants and Children

Examples: preventive services for children, prenatal care, child and juvenile health care, school health programs, child immunization, reduction of infant mortality, promotion of breast feeding, prenatal care programs, child health care, sudden infant death syndrome, childhood malnutrition, fetal alcohol syndrome, child dental care.

See also: 210 for abortion related issues; 331 for health education programs; 606 education of special needs children; 1208 child abuse and child welfare services; 1301 child nutrition programs.

333: Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Examples: state role in providing services to the mentally ill, mental health services, quality of care for mentally ill, mentally ill and handicapped children, specialized housing for mentally retarded, mental health centers.

See also: 324 misuse of state funds for mental health care; 606 education of special needs children.

334: Long-Term Care, Home Health, Terminally Ill, and Rehabilitation Services

Examples: hospice, nursing homes, in-home care, regulation of the sale of long-term health care to the elderly, long-term care insurance improvement, court appointed guardianships for the elderly and infirm, aging, gerontology research, problems in financing long-term care, community alternative to institutional care, approaches to long-term care for the elderly, comprehensive home health care, life-sustaining treatments for the terminally ill, regulation of living wills, advance directives for health care, directives for the determination of death.

See also: 322 nursing home standards; 323 payment for outpatient services; 333 long-term care for the mentally ill; 336 provision of outpatient benefits; 1304 disability benefits; 1609 veterans' disability benefits.

335: Prescription Drug Coverage and Costs

Examples: state supported prescription drug coverage for the elderly, including Medicare recipients, coverage of specific drugs under Medicaid, rising costs of drug coverage, coverage of clinical trials and experimental treatments.

See also: 321 regulation of drug industry; 1203 theft of or illegally obtained prescription drugs; 2016 state lottery operations.

336: Other or Multiple Benefits and Procedures

Examples: treatment for Alzheimer's, dental services, vision services, renal disease, breast cancer treatment, durable medical equipment (e.g. wheelchairs), medical services to the blind.

See also: 1304 assistance to the disabled and handicapped.

341: Tobacco Abuse, Treatment, and Education

Examples: cigarette advertising and regulatory issues, ban on smoking in state buildings, increase public awareness of smoking health risks, smoking prevention education programs, health effects associated with smoking, efforts to control sale of tobacco and other legal stimulants to minors, provision for the incidence and rate of cigarette tax.

See also: 398 use of tobacco-related settlement funds to support health research.

342: Alcohol Abuse and Treatment

Examples: state implementation of the national minimum drinking age act, alcoholic beverage advertising act, alcohol abuse among the elderly, prevention of adolescent alcohol abuse, health insurance coverage of alcohol abuse treatment, drunk driving victims protection, drunk driving enforcement aid for states, alcoholism prevention programs.

See also: 344 drug and alcohol abuse; 1006 efforts to reduce drunk driving.

343: Controlled and Illegal Drug Abuse, Treatment, and Education

Examples: drug abuse education and prevention programs in schools, community based anti-drug programs, substance abuse treatment in state prisons, methadone treatment program, drug abuse treatment programs and insurance coverage.

See also: 321 drug safety; 1203 drug trafficking, theft of prescriptions.

344: Drug and Alcohol or Substance Abuse Treatment

Examples: extension of drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, health coverage of drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs, drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs in schools, drug and alcohol abuse in the armed services, juvenile alcohol and drug abuse, entertainment industry efforts to curb drug and alcohol abuse.

See also: 342 alcohol abuse and treatment; 343 illegal drug abuse and treatment.

345: Provision and Regulation of Ambulance Services

See also: 1209 rescue organizations; 1706 upgrading 911 capabilities, amendments to the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act (911); 2004 government employee benefits.

398: Research and development

Examples: use of tobacco-related settlement funds to support health research, non-preferred appropriation to the University of Pennsylvania for cardiovascular studies, Alzheimer's research, research on women's health, government tax incentives for research and development, research grants to organizations and educational institutions, conferences on health-related issues, genetic engineering issues, medical research and regulatory issues, sleep disorders research, fetal tissue transplant research, health policy research programs, medical applications of biotechnology research, research on increased life expectancy, human genetic engineering research, biomedical and behavioral research.

399: Other

Examples: health consequences of a nuclear attack.

4. Agriculture

400: General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture appropriations and programs, farm legislation issues, economic conditions in agriculture, impact of budget reductions on agriculture, importance of agriculture to the state economy, state farmland protection policies, agriculture and rural development appropriations, family farmers, farm program administration, long range agricultural policies, protection of agricultural land.

See also: 1301 food stamps, food assistance, and nutrition monitoring program; 2400 Local Government and Governance (General Topics).

401: Agricultural Trade

Examples: agricultural export promotion efforts, agricultural trade promotion programs, tobacco import trends, agricultural export credit guarantee programs, impact of imported meats on domestic industries, country of origin produce labeling, state agricultural export initiatives, livestock and poultry exports, emphasis on trade development, promote foreign trade in grapes and plums, prohibit unfair trade practices affecting producers of agricultural products.

See also: 1800 general foreign trade.

402: Government Agricultural Subsidies, Agricultural Disaster Insurance

Example: actions related to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

See also: 1404 agriculture real estate loans.

403: Food and Commodity Inspection and Safety

Examples: consumer food safety, inspection of wholesalers and processors of seafood, budget requests for food safety programs, sanitary requirements for food products transportation, meat inspections, food packaging and labeling standards and requirements, issues associated with contamination of food supplies, eggs, fruits and vegetables inspection programs, enforcement of the Milk Sanitation Law and Regulations, retail inspection programs for public food facilities.

404: Agricultural Marketing, Research, and Promotion

Examples: promotion and marketing of Pennsylvania crops and livestock, designation of Pennsylvania Horticultural Week, activities related to the State Farm Show.

405: Animal and Crop Disease, Pest Control and Domestic Pets

Examples: control of animal and plant pests, eradication of livestock diseases, pest management program, toxic contamination of livestock, predator control problems, biological controls for insects and diseases on agricultural crops, licensing of veterinarians, dog licensing, pet regulation, regulation of pet breeders, exemption of pet grooming from sales tax, cruelty to animals.

See also: 704 pesticides regulation.

498: Agricultural Research and Development

Examples: condition of state funded agricultural research facilities, nutrition research activities, agricultural research programs, regulation of research in agricultural biotechnology programs, organic farming research, potential uses of genetic engineering in agriculture, agricultural research services, research on aquaculture.

499: Other

Examples: agricultural weather information services, home gardening, farm cooperative issues, Hardwoods Development Council.

5. Labor, Employment, and Immigration

500: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry appropriations, assess change in future labor markets, human resources development act, recent decline in the number of manufacturing jobs, state employment priorities, current labor market developments.

501: Worker Safety and Protection

Examples: efforts to improve worker safety and health, mine safety regulations, lead exposure risks during construction activities, construction safety standards, drug and alcohol abuse in the work place, compensation for occupational diseases, worker safety at nuclear facilities, black lung benefits and black lung disease.

See also: 801 state safety inspections of nuclear plants.

502: Employment Training and Workforce Development

Examples: Job Ready Pennsylvania program, Workforce Investment Act, job opportunities and basic skills training programs, state aid for job retraining, job displacement programs, funding for disadvantaged workers (elderly and low-income), job re-training when not a condition for receiving welfare, displaced homemakers vocational and education assistance, work incentive programs, manpower and employment problems, manpower development and training.

See also: 200 Human Relations Commission; 1302 mandatory work and training programs for welfare recipients.

503: Employee Benefits

Examples: unemployment compensation system financing, worker compensation ratemaking reform, tax treatment of employee fringe benefits, worker's compensation insurance program, underfunded pension plans and pension plan protection, emergency unemployment compensation, retiree health benefits, guarantees of retirement annuities, employee stock ownership plans, fraud and abuse in employee sponsored health insurance programs, minimum health benefits for employees, voluntary employee leave sharing program, disability insurance legislation, railroad employment benefits.

See also: 2004 state and local employee benefits.

504: Employee/Employer Relations and Labor Unions

Examples: labor-management relations, dispute resolution, collective bargaining laws, unions and collective bargaining problems, unfair labor practices, plant closure notice requirement, MILRITE Council.

See also: 1202 illegal activities of labor unions; 2004 state and local employee benefits.

505: Fair Labor Standards

Examples: minimum wage regulation, enforcement of wage and hour standards, require contractors to pay wages at the rate in locality where the construction occurred (Prevailing Wage Laws), penalties on employers for overtime work requirements, non-safety related working conditions.

See also: 200 Human Relations commission.

506: Youth Employment and Child Labor

Examples: youth employment through conservation projects, increase youth participation in job training centers, youth employment regulation and protection, voucher system to promote youth service programs, youth involvement in community service programs, summer youth education and employment programs, job training for disadvantaged youths, summer camps and youth camps (all activities and issues associated with summer and youth camps).

See also: 501 child labor safety.

508: Parental Leave and Child Care

Examples: child care assistance programs, child care for low and moderate income families, meeting the child care needs of working parents, affordability of insurance for day care centers, parental and medical leave, child care placement assistance for working parents, dependent care, dependent and child care, child-care tax credit, regulation of child day care facilities.

See also: 1207 background checks for prospective child care personnel; 2004 daycare for government employees.

529: Migrant and Seasonal Workers, Farm Labor Issues

Examples: migrant and seasonal worker housing, state office for migrant farm workers, migrant children's nutrition and education needs, improvement of migrant living and working conditions, social and economic problems of migrant workers, migrant workers and their effect on labor, migratory labor bills, health clinics for migratory farm workers, farm labor supply programs.

See also: 206 voting rights issues; 603 bilingual education.

530: Immigration and Refugee Issues

Examples: state requirements for citizenship to qualify for various programs, immigration and education issues for aliens, use of drivers' licenses to screen for illegal immigrants.

See also: 603 bilingual education; 1006 licensing of motor vehicle operators; 1524 tourism.

599: Other

6. Education

600: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) appropriations, state of education in the state, education programs development, education quality, state education methods, impact of education budget cuts, education conferences.

601: Higher Education (includes medical schools)

Examples: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and its individual universities, state-related universities (Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln University), private colleges and universities, general aid to medical schools and teaching hospitals in Pennsylvania, actions related to Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), actions related to the Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority (PHEFA), Pennsylvania's TAP 529 program, student loan reform, higher education student financial aid programs, violations of NCAA regulations by state-run colleges, direct loan programs for graduate students, student loan fraud and default, role and financial need of black colleges and universities, veterans education assistance, foreign students at state universities, rising costs of operating higher education institutions, improving the quality of higher education, state aid for public and private higher education institutions, academic freedom in higher education, providing a tax credit for attendance at Commonwealth universities and colleges, institutional assistance grants.

602: Elementary and Secondary Education

Examples: state elementary and secondary education programs, annual school subsidy legislation, school funding disparities, problems of growing school districts, education choice programs, high school dropout intervention programs, certification standards for public school teachers, state investigations of the impact of federal budget cuts on school districts, elementary and secondary school student discipline problems, construction assistance for school facilities, high school scholarship programs, elementary and secondary schools and supplemental educational centers, preschool issues, state compliance with federal No Child Left Behind mandates, actions related to the State Public School Building Authority (SPSBA), regulation of school boards, state takeovers of local school districts, debates on public school choice and vouchers, regulation of charter schools, regulation of home schooling, creation of school districts, Public School Code provisions associated with truancy, Public School Code provisions providing for the arrest of children not attending school, school bus and school bus drivers' issues, issues pertaining to private and parochial schools, business tax credit programs for investments in education.

See also: 201 busing for integration; 607 education standards and testing; 1206 juvenile crime and juvenile justice system, crime in schools; 1207 background checks of school employees;

2004 government employee benefits; 2404 state authorization and limitations on taxation powers of local government and property tax relief.

603: Education of Underprivileged Students

Examples: Head Start programs, teaching disadvantaged students, education needs of Hispanics, bilingual education needs, Department of Education grants to improve skills of economically disadvantaged students, effects of Head Start on later performance, adult literacy programs, combating adult illiteracy, Head Start grant allocation formula, education for children from low income homes, enrichment programs for disadvantaged secondary school students.

See also: 201 school desegregation efforts.

604: Vocational Education

Examples: appropriations for vocational education programs, state aid for vocational training, technical and vocational education programs, vocational aid program requirements, impact of cuts on vocational education, vocational and occupational education, non-preferred appropriations to the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades for operation and maintenance of the school.

606: Special Education

Examples: state and federal funding and mandates with respect to special education, funding of approved private schools providing special education services, education programs for the deaf, grants for early intervention services for disabled infants and toddlers, appropriations for handicapped education programs, progress in implementing program for learning disabled youth, handicapped education, free public education for the handicapped, education assistance for the blind.

607: Educational Excellence

Examples: promotion of excellence in education, promotion of science and math education, education standards and testing, improvement of science education facilities, increase foreign language competency in schools, programs to promote teacher excellence, grants for improving computer education in schools, establish centers for gifted and talented students, use of telecommunications to share teaching resources, grants for library construction, public library facilities, tax credits for computer, scientific and video audio equipment and services donated to schools by business, Science Technology Partnership Program between schools and universities.

See also: 602 state compliance with federal No Child Left Behind mandates.

609: Arts and Humanities

Examples: appropriations for Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, state funding for cultural and arts institutions, state assistance to arts and cultural educational facilities, programs of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, state role in funding arts programs, state funding for the Kimmel Center, governor's conferences on the arts and humanities, Pennsylvania folk life, income tax check-off to provide funding for the arts.

See also: 105 state capital budget; 1400 economic development; 1403 urban economic development; 1411 general state economic development; 1707 public broadcasting.

698: Research and Development

Examples: education research appropriations, Department of Education research and development programs, research on education technology.

699: Other

Examples: retirement and lifelong learning, school land issues.

7. Environment

700: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) appropriations and budget requests, state implementation of federal clean air standards, federal requirements for state to provide source pollution management programs, pollution control programs, environmental protection and energy conservation, adequacy of DEP implementation of pollution control legislation, economic costs of environmental laws and regulations, amendments to the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, issues affecting Environmental Hearing Board, environmental permits and license actions affecting multiple issue areas, environmental impact statements.

701: Water Supply and Drinking Water Safety

Examples: state implementation of federal clean water regulations, water pollution abatement, pesticides in groundwater, lead contamination of drinking water, drinking water safety programs, comprehensive assessments of the quality of the state's groundwater, drinking water availability, dioxin levels in drinking water, fluoridation of water, drinking water safety and groundwater quality, regulation and provision of water by utilities, regulation of water authorities.

See also: 2104 water resources development and research.

703: Waste Disposal

Examples: interstate waste disposal, solid waste management, state management of municipal waste, municipal sewage problems, municipal sewage treatment construction grants program, recovery of energy from municipal solid waste, garbage and/or trash collection issues, waste treatment facility, state regulation of sewer and solid waste authorities, regulations or laws prohibiting littering and other unauthorized waste disposal.

See also: 2401 state establishment and regulation of authorities.

704: Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Regulation, Treatment, and Disposal

Examples: DEP administration of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, hazardous waste sites cleanup, hazardous materials transportation, insurance company liability for cleanup costs of hazardous waste sites, routing of ultra hazardous cargoes, hazardous waste landfills, toxic substances control and regulation, advance notice of hazardous material storage for firefighters, pesticides regulation, prohibition of certain phosphate detergents and cleaning agents, environmental remediation tax credit, underground storage tank issues.

705: Air Pollution, Global Warming, and Noise Pollution

Examples: DEP implementation of federal laws dealing with air quality, DEP regulation of chemical plant emissions, costs and effects of chronic exposure to low-level air pollutants, ambient air quality criteria, global warming, action plan for reducing greenhouse emissions, ozone layer depletion, program to control acid rain, effects of chlorofluorocarbons on the ozone layer, regulation of automobile emissions, noise control programs.

706: Coal Mine Subsidence and Reclamation

Examples: Mine subsidence insurance.

See also: 2103 mine reclamation on public lands.

707: Recycling

Examples: recycling contaminated materials, beverage container recycling, state and local recycling efforts, promotion of recycling as a means of reducing solid waste, resource conservation and recycling, exempting equipment used for recycling from sales and use tax.

708: Indoor Environmental Hazards

Examples: indoor air quality and radon disclosure and abatement legislation, lead exposure reduction, childhood lead poisoning prevention, public schools asbestos inspections, management and control of asbestos in government buildings, programs relating to indoor air contamination, airliner cabin air quality, health effects of exposure to low level radiation from video display terminals, regulation of indoor disinfectants.

709: Species and Forest Protection

Examples: Endangered Species Protection Act, protection of performance animals, regulation of trapping devices, bald eagle protection, regulation of laboratory animals, fish and wildlife protection and management programs, fisheries protection, fishery conservation and management, scientific findings on late-successional forest ecosystems, old growth forest protection, wilderness refuge protection, control of illegal trade in animals and plants, humane treatment of animals used in experiments.

See also: 405 cruelty to animals; 2101 state parks; 2103 public lands management.

710: Coastal Water Pollution and Conservation

Examples: preservation of wetlands, river water pollution, coastal barrier improvement, coastal erosion and management, state coastal zone protection policies, toxic pollution in Lake Erie, oil spills.

See also: 2104 water resources development

711: Land and Water Conservation

Examples: soil conservation promotion, soil conservation for watershed projects, topsoil conservation standards, water supply problems.

See also: 2104 water development projects.

712: Regulation of Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Boating

Examples: appropriations, budget and programs of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission, hunting regulation, hunting licensing, fishing regulation, fishing licensing, boating safety programs, recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

798: Research and Development

Examples: environmental research and development programs.

799: Other

Examples: DEP capability for forecasting future environmental problems, environmental impact statements.

8. Energy

800: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Public Utilities Commission budget requests and appropriations, decisions by Public Utilities Commission affecting multiple types of energy providers, Public Utilities Commission issues affecting both energy and phone companies, legislation deregulating multiple types of utilities, accidents involving utilities in general, provisions affecting the Public Utilities Commission Consumer Advocate.

See also: 107 taxes affecting utilities; 700 issues affecting Environmental Hearing Board and environmental permits and license actions affecting multiple issue areas; 1523 domestic disaster preparedness and relief; 2104 for energy and water development projects.

801: Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issues

Examples: state compliance with federal nuclear energy requirements, regulation of utilities with respect to uses of nuclear power, Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, state safety inspections of nuclear plants, security of nuclear power facilities.

See also: 501 worker safety at nuclear facilities; 704 hazardous waste; 1523 domestic disaster preparedness and relief; 1614 defense related nuclear waste.

802: Electricity and Hydroelectricity

Examples: electric power plant construction, hydroelectric power development, utility payment reform, rural electrification programs, rural electric cooperatives, PUC electric power rates and ratemaking procedures, electric utility rate reform and regulation improvement, regional shortages of electric power, electric utilities financial problems, vulnerability of electric power systems to accidents, increase in rural electric rates, emergency sales of electric power, impact of inflation and recession on the electric utility industry, legislation allowing consumers to choose the company generating their electricity.

803: Natural Gas and Oil

Examples: natural gas regulation, natural gas pipeline safety issues, natural gas and oil exploration, estimates of natural gas reserves in the state, state jurisdiction of the transportation of natural gas, collection and dissemination of information on winter heating fuels, oil prices and demand, gasoline price increases, OPEC crude oil prices, oil shortages, increase in world oil prices, long-term outlook of the world oil supply, oil imports and energy security, foreign oil production and consumption, oil shale mining claims and regulation, estimating domestic oil production, royalty and value calculation procedures for oil and gas produced on state lands, petroleum storage facility fire prevention and safety.

See also: 501 worker safety; 710 oil spills; 1002 liquid fuels tax, gas tax and highway use tax; 1520 antitrust issues in oil and gas distribution; 1525 regulation of gasoline and gas stations.

805: Coal

Examples: clean coal program, clean coal technologies, regulation of coal slurry pipelines, extent and recoverability of state coal reserves, coal gasification project, regulation of state land leases for the extraction of coal, coal imports.

See also: 501 worker safety; 706 mine reclamation; 2103 enforcement of mining standards.

806: Alternative and Renewable Energy

Examples: hydrogen and renewable energy programs, promotion of solar and geothermal power, promotion of alternative fuels for automobiles, issues of ethanol gasoline, biomass fuel and wind energy programs, ocean thermal energy research, solar energy development program, loans for alcohol fuel research, geothermal leases on state lands, hydrogen programs.

807: Energy Conservation

Examples: energy efficiency in the state government, home energy efficiency programs, community energy efficiency act, energy conservation in cities, establish building energy performance standards, diesel fuel and gasoline conservation, promotion of carpooling, motor vehicle fuel efficiency.

898: Research and Development:

Examples: state energy research and development policy, energy technology research and development, energy storage research and development programs, hydrogen research and design programs.

899: Other

10. Transportation

1000: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Department of Transportation (Penn DOT) requests and appropriations, budget requests and appropriations for multiple agencies, surface transportation programs, state transportation policy, rural transportation needs, adequacy of transportation systems, highway and mass transit programs, transportation assistance programs, high-speed ground transportation systems, parking authorities, parking issues.

1001: Mass Transportation and Safety

Examples: mass transit grant programs, development of new urban public bus system, financial condition of the intercity bus industry, emergency subsidies to urban mass transportation programs, metrorail safety, public transportation, state aid to regional mass transit authorities, state oversight of mass transit authorities.

1002: Highway Construction, Maintenance, and Safety

Examples: PennDOT Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering budget requests and appropriations, federal aid to the state for highway construction, infrastructure development, pavement deterioration of highways, highway safety and design, highway trust fund surplus, freeway problems, federal funding to states for bridge maintenance projects, highway user taxes, increase vehicle weight and width limitations on interstate highways, state maximum speed limit laws, control of advertising on interstate highways, bridges, highway beautification programs, adding trees and plants along highways, liquid fuels tax, gas tax and highway use tax, state highway law provisions applicable to all municipalities, naming of roads and bridges.

1003: Airports, Airlines, Air Traffic Control and Safety

Examples: state aid to local airports, state regulation of airport authorities, state Bureau of Aviation licensing of airports, aviation safety issues, financial condition of the airline industry, development of new commercial aircraft, commercial air service restrictions, statewide airport expansion needs, investigations of aircraft noise, airline fares and services, problems with airline computer reservation systems, federal airport construction aid to the state.

1005: Railroad Transportation and Safety

Examples: state aid to AMTRAK, state rail plan, railroad safety inspection and enforcement programs, development of high speed passenger rail transportation, growth of regional railroads, sales of short line and regional railroads, railroad passenger safety issues, freight rail industry regulation, shortage of railroad cars for commodity transportation, revitalization of Northeast Corridor rail properties, railroad deregulation.

1006: Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety (Including Registration and Licensing)

Examples: trucking industry regulation, licensing of truck and bus drivers, truck safety audit and investigation procedures, prohibition of tandem trucks, size and weight limitations for trucks on interstate, impact of regulations on independent truckers, long and short haul trucking provisions, regulation of freight forwarders, regulation of the trucking industry, motor vehicle safety issues, auto industry development of airbags, motor vehicle information programs, automobile safety belt usage, automobile crash testing and standards, economic status of automobile manufacturing, all-terrain vehicle safety, trucking industry deregulation, licensing of commercial and non-commercial drivers, non-commercial vehicle inspection, vehicle registration, procedures for determining driver incompetency, Public Utilities Commission regulation of taxis, motorcycle inspection, motorcycle safety issues, efforts to reduce drunk driving, regulation of towing parked automobiles, driver liability issues.

See also: 530 use of drivers' licenses to screen for illegal immigrants; 602 school bus and school bus drivers' issues; 705 automobile emissions regulation; 1000 parking issues; 1505 catastrophic insurance to cover losses resulting from motor vehicle accidents, automobile insurance affordability and availability, no-fault motor vehicle insurance.

1007: Maritime Issues

Examples: revitalization of the maritime industry, commercial fishing vessel safety, navigation safety issues, commercial shipbuilding industry, financing construction of merchant ships, pilotage and small boat safety, navigation rules on inland waterways.

See also: 712 recreational boating; 2104 port development and construction.

1008: Alternative Means of Transportation

Examples: bicycles/pedestrian pathways, bicycle safety laws, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, regulation of pedalcycles.

1010: Public Works (Infrastructure Development)

Examples: budget requests and appropriations for public works and civil works projects, transportation infrastructure improvements, civil works and energy projects, public works investment needs, local public works employment projects, local public works capital development and investment.

See also: 800 energy projects; 2104 water projects, port development and construction.

1098: Research and Development

Examples: surface transportation research and development, PennDOT requests for transportation research and development funding, research and development in ground transportation.

1099: Other

Examples: metric signing on highways.

12. Law, Crime, and Family Issues

1200: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: emerging criminal justice issues, administration of criminal justice, revision of the criminal justice system, publication of revisions to criminal and civil laws.

1201: Executive Branch Agencies Dealing With Law and Crime

Examples: budget requests and appropriations for executive branch agencies dealing with law and crime, witness protection programs, improving criminal justice information systems at the state and local level, computerizing criminal records for law enforcement access, law enforcement assistance programs, Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, Office of the Attorney General, activities of District Attorneys.

1202: White Collar Crime and Organized Crime

Examples: state commission on organized crime, racketeering control, organized crime in labor unions, gambling and organized crime, credit card counterfeiting and fraud legislation, corporate criminal liability, prosecution of organized crime labor racketeering cases, cigarette bootlegging, general money laundering.

See also: 1203 drug related money laundering.

1203: Illegal Drug Production, Trafficking, and Control

Examples: State Police drug control strategy, federal and state interagency cooperation in drug control and interdiction, state drug interdiction programs, drug trafficking and money laundering, money laundering detection and penalties, state seizure of drug related property, legalization of drugs, the relationship between drug trafficking and crime, criminal penalties for drug

trafficking, law providing for eviction of drug traffickers from rental property, theft of or illegally obtained prescription drugs, including theft of prescriptions.

See also: 321 prescription drug safety and counterfeiting; 343 controlled and illegal drug abuse, treatment, education; 1202 general money laundering (non-drug related).

1204: Court Administration

Examples: Unified Judicial System budget requests and appropriations, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, construction of new courthouses, administration of state courts, reorganization of state courts, grand jury procedures, time limits for state criminal cases, capital punishment procedures, effectiveness of the pretrial services agencies, criminal fine collection efforts (including tickets for moving violations by vehicle operators), conditions for pre-trial release, bail guidelines and bail reform, establish and office of the public defender, state Supreme Court issues, criminal records, legal services issues, discipline of lawyers, legislation affecting the selection of judges, hearings on moving to a merit system for selection of judges, selection and duties of sheriffs, regulation of lawyers and legal profession, issues dealing with the bail bonds profession.

See also: 1205 parole issues; 1210 state crime sentencing policy; 1214 state tort law and tort law reform; 2012 judicial election contests.

1205: Prisons

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Corrections appropriations and budget requests, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, state regulation and inspection of county prisons, crime victim's notification of prisoner release or parole, halfway house contracts, alternatives to traditional incarceration for criminal offenders, prisoner 'boot' camp proposals, prison overcrowding, prison construction plans and policy, prison violence, shortcomings of the correction system, reform of the present parole system, state correction standards, penal reform.

See also: 206 voting rights and issues.

1206: Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice System

Examples: violent crime involving youth, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act, juvenile court system, youth criminal activity, homeless and runaway youth assistance programs, crime and violence in schools, adolescent drug use and related criminal activity, juvenile delinquency prevention programs, correlation of unemployment and the crime rate for youth, alternatives to juvenile incarceration, detention and jailing of juveniles, violent video game regulation.

See also: 1209 minor firearm possession.

1207: Child Abuse and Child Pornography

Examples: child abuse prevention, state child search system, regulation of child pornography, violence against children, sexual exploitation of children, problems and incidence of missing children, state efforts to relocate missing children, sexual abuse of children in day care homes, parental kidnapping of their children.

See also: 1211 crime prevention and riots.

1208: Marriage and Family Issues

Examples: laws regulating marriage, marriage licenses, divorce laws, birth certificates, licensure of marriage and family therapists, court-ordered child support, battered women and child custody legislation, state of child welfare services, adoption and foster care programs, domestic violence, state family planning programs, impact of drugs on children and families, aid for abandoned infants and children, teenage pregnancy issues, teenage suicide prevention, family services support for adoption, family economic problems, consequences of divorce, elderly abuse, domestic violence, efforts to define marriage. Parental liability for actions of minors.

See also: 1302 welfare fraud.

1209: Police, Fire, and Weapons Control

Examples: issues related to the State Police, Federal financial assistance to state and local law enforcement, rights of police officers during internal investigations, police misconduct, neighborhood crime reduction programs, arson prevention, handgun control, revise state gun control laws, seven-day waiting periods for handgun sales, control of explosives, creation of office of State Fire Commissioner, appropriations to the State Fire Academy, non-taxable status of benefit sales by volunteer fire organizations, legislation affecting rescue organizations, building fire protection system requirements.

See also: 345 ambulance services; 1204 selection and duties of sheriffs and constables; 1400 housing safety standards, state building codes; 1706 upgrading 911 capabilities, amendments to the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act (911); 2004 government employee benefits, law enforcement/fire injury and survivor benefits.

1210: Criminal Code

Examples: revisions of the state criminal code, state crime sentencing policy, hate crimes sentencing enhancement act, state rape law reform, judicial sentencing in narcotics cases, sentencing in capital cases, criminal penalties for assaults on firemen and policemen, proposals to abolish the death penalty, civil penalty guidelines and limitations, criminal justice statistics, habeas corpus reform, Miranda-related rights.

1211: Crime Prevention and Riots

Examples: crime prevention programs, programs to prevent crimes against women, crimes against the elderly, deterring auto theft, violent crime control, crime surveys, state criminal diversion programs, compensation programs for victims of violent crime, victims' rights, causes of urban riots and civil disturbances, creation of registries of violent sex offenders, laws to deter the theft and resale of precious metals, illegal searches.

See also: 1203 drug related searches; 1207 child abuse and child pornography; 1208 domestic violence.

1212: Probate and Estate Law

Examples: regulation of wills, death certificates, inheritance tax, coroners and medical examiners.

See also: 1527 regulation of graves and graveyards.

1213: Property and Real Estate Law

Examples: laws affecting deeds and property titles, eminent domain, liens, restrictive covenants, laws affecting landlord and tenants, state regulation of local property laws, issues involving "takings" of private property rights by other private parties, issues involving the realty transfer tax, regulation of private swimming pools, intangible property such as stocks and bonds.

1214: State Tort Law and Tort Law Reform

Examples: comprehensive tort law reform, product liability reform, tobacco liability issues.

See also: 324 medical liability, fraud and abuse; 1006 driver liability issues; 1525 lemon laws.

1215: Notary Public

Examples: eligibility to become a notary public, regulation of fees charged by a notary public.

1299: Other

13. Social Welfare

1300: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Department of Public Welfare appropriations and budget requests, comprehensive welfare reform proposals, effectiveness of federal and state public welfare programs, social services proposals, public assistance programs, programs combining assistance to the poor, elderly *and* disabled, utility rate protection based on low income, age or disability, Supplemental Security Income programs, comprehensive welfare reform programs, public assistance programs for single persons, welfare fraud.

1301: Food Stamps, Food Assistance, and Nutrition Monitoring Programs

Examples: state administration of food stamps and food assistance programs, USDA grants to the states for women, infant and children (WIC) supplemental food program, childhood hunger relief, child nutrition programs, consumer nutrition awareness, food stamp abuse and fraud, approach to the hunger problem, school breakfast/lunch program, malnutrition problems among the elderly, food assistance for low income families, food programs for the homeless, food stamp reductions, special milk program eligibility for public schools, nutrition policy study, food assistance for the elderly, effects of national school lunch programs on the state.

See also: 332 childhood malnutrition; 400 Agriculture (General Topics).

1302: Poverty and Assistance for Low-Income Families

Examples: antipoverty programs including AFDC and TANF, programs to alleviate long-term welfare dependency, needs of disadvantaged children from low-income families, efforts to reduce poverty, mandatory work and training programs for welfare recipients, low-income energy assistance and weatherization programs, poverty exemptions to state and local taxes.

See also: 502 funding for disadvantaged workers (elderly and low-income) job re-training when not a condition for receiving welfare; 1204 legal assistance for the poor; 1300 welfare fraud and public assistance to single persons; 1301 food stamps and assistance programs.

1303: Elderly Issues and Elderly Assistance Programs

Examples: Department of Aging budget requests and appropriations, social services for the elderly, state implementation of elderly assistance programs under the Older Americans Act, impact of budget cuts on the elderly, energy cost assistance for the elderly, needs of rural elderly, adult day care programs, property tax relief for senior citizens, designation of Older Americans Month, property tax relief for both the elderly and disabled.

See also: 301 comprehensive reform of Medicare and Medicaid; 334 long-term care, home health, terminally ill, and rehabilitation services; 335 prescription drug coverage and costs; 342 alcohol abuse among the elderly; 502 elderly workers and job retraining; 1208 elderly abuse; 1211 crimes against the elderly; 1300 Supplemental Security Income programs; 1301 elderly nutrition assistance programs, malnutrition among the elderly; 1304 assistance to the disabled and handicapped; 1305 social services and volunteer associations, volunteer services for the elderly; 1408 elderly housing.

1304: Assistance to the Disabled and Handicapped

Examples: residential living programs for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled, revision of aid to handicapped, state implementation of federal Americans with Disabilities Act, technologies for assisting disabled persons, grants for persons with chronic disabilities, needs of the elderly blind, rehabilitation assistance for disabled, programs for the deaf and hearing impaired, independent living programs for the handicapped, state aid for the mentally ill and retarded, aid to physically handicapped, regulation of seeing eye dogs.

See also: 205 handicapped access to state and local government buildings; 336 other or multiple benefits, medical services for the blind; 1300 Supplemental Security Income programs; 1303 property tax relief for both the elderly and disabled.

1305: Social Services and Volunteer Associations

Examples: state regulation of charitable and nonprofit organizations, domestic volunteer service programs, youth volunteer programs, community volunteer programs, providing volunteer services for the elderly, state management of volunteer services, meals-on-wheels programs, state social services programs, boy scouts of America, older worker community service programs, boys and girls clubs, licensure of social workers, sales tax exemptions for charitable, volunteer and religious organizations, regulation of services provided by nonprofit organizations.

See also: 1520 regulation of nonprofits as a business entity.

1399: Other

14. Community Development and Housing Issues

1400: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (Department of Community Affairs) budget requests and appropriations, housing and the housing market, state building codes, building construction standards, health of the housing industry, state housing

assistance legislation, administration and operation of state housing programs, housing safety standards, land conveyances for economic development programs.

See also: 601 higher education (regulating college dormitories).

1401: Housing and Community Development

Examples: state funds for community development, administration of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

See also: 1403 urban economic development; 1405 rural economic development; 1411 general state economic development.

1402: Zoning and Growth Management

Examples: open space laws, enactment of growth boundaries, state regulation of zoning codes, state incentives for managed growth and containment of sprawl, changes to the state Municipalities Planning Code.

See also: 2401 state establishment and regulation of local governments and authorities.

1403: Urban Economic Development and General Urban Issues

Examples: urban enterprise zones, local partnership act, economic development needs of urban areas, community reinvestment act, urban revitalization, economic problems in various cities, effects of budget cuts on cities, state role in dealing with urban decline, construction of convention centers and sports stadiums, regulation of convention center authorities, PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) used to facilitate the construction of stadiums and similar economic development projects, hotel room sales taxes used to support the construction of convention centers.

See also: 1010 infrastructure development; 1411 regulation and powers of business improvement districts (BIDs); 2001 intergovernmental relations; 2401 state establishment and regulation of local governments and authorities; 2404 property tax relief.

1404: Rural Housing and Housing Assistance Programs

Examples: shortages of low-income rural housing, housing credit needs in rural areas, agriculture real estate loans.

See also: 1405 rural economic development.

1405: Rural Economic Development

Examples: credit assistance and availability for rural economic development, investment in rural areas, rural conditions, rural development oversight, economic and social problems of rural Pennsylvania, rural community development, rural telephone assistance.

See also: 325 health manpower issues; 802 rural electric development; 1010 infrastructure development; 1706 telephone and telecommunication regulation.

1406: Low and Middle Income Housing Programs and Needs

Examples: housing affordability problems of low and moderate income families, state housing assistance programs, low-income housing shortages, condominium conversion trends and housing affordability, rent control, deficiencies in public housing projects, alleged mismanagement of public housing programs, tenant-management initiatives in public housing projects, management of multi-family housing programs, security in public housing, neighborhood preservation, slum clearance and related problems, multifamily housing projects, housing affordability and availability, housing authorities.

See also: 200 fair housing initiatives and discrimination in housing; 1408 elderly housing.

1407: Veterans Housing Assistance and Military Housing Programs

See also: 601 veterans education benefits; 1409 homeless veterans; 1609 general veterans and VA issues.

1408: Elderly and Handicapped Housing

Examples: elderly housing needs, housing shortages and the elderly, alternative approaches to housing for the elderly, condominiums and the elderly, housing facilities for the elderly and handicapped, adequacy of federal and state response to housing needs of older Pennsylvanians.

1409: Housing Assistance for Homeless and Homeless Issues

Examples: permanent housing for the homeless, state aid for the homeless, assistance for homeless veterans, lack of housing for homeless and low-income groups, use of emergency assistance funds for housing for homeless families, extent and causes of homelessness, regulation of homeless shelters.

See also: 603 education of homeless children.

1410: Secondary Mortgage Market

See also 1504 consumer finance, mortgages and credit cards.

1411: General State Economic Development

Examples: legislation affecting site development, Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, grants for industrial site development projects, Keystone Opportunity Zone legislation, Sunny Day appropriations, Regulation and powers of Business improvement districts (BIDs).

See also: 107 state taxation, state tax policy, and reform of state taxes; 704 incentives for developers to clean up hazardous waste sites; 1010 infrastructure development.

1499: Other

Examples: architectural competition, cellulose home insulation.

15. Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce

1500: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Pennsylvania Department of Banking budget requests and appropriations, financial system structure and regulation.

1501: State Banking System and Financial Institution Regulation

Examples: licensing and regulation of financial institutions, licensing and regulation of pay-day lenders, licensing and regulation of pawnbrokers, licensing and regulation of check cashers, licensing and regulation of motor vehicle financing companies, licensing and regulation of money transmitters, predatory lending, designation of Community Banking Week.

See also: 1202 prosecution of financial institution crimes.

1502: Securities and Commodities Regulation

Examples: Pennsylvania Securities Commission budget requests and appropriations, state securities laws, licensure of securities-related businesses.

1504: Consumer Finance, Mortgages, and Credit Cards

Examples: mortgage financing reform, consumer credit protection, real estate settlement procedures, consumer access to credit records, consumer information on credit card interest

rates, consumer information on mortgage settlement costs, fraud and abuse among credit repair agencies, adjustable rate mortgages, regulation of credit card solicitations, inaccurate credit bureau information reporting procedures, regulation of companies engaged in automobile repossession.

See also: 1410 Secondary mortgage market

1505: Insurance Regulation

Examples: Pennsylvania Insurance Department budget requests and appropriations, licensing of insurance companies, catastrophic insurance to cover losses resulting from motor vehicle accidents, state regulation of insurance companies, fraud and abuse in the insurance industry, insurance industry financial status, insurance company failures, automobile insurance affordability and availability, no-fault motor vehicle and uninsured motorist insurance, life insurance industry regulation, product liability insurance rates, insurance premiums tax, regulation of Fraternal Benefit Societies.

See also: 302 insurance reform, availability, and cost; 323 provider and insurer payment and regulation; 1006 Driver liability issues; 1523 flood and earthquake insurance.

1507: Bankruptcy

Examples: consumer and business bankruptcy laws, professional fees in bankruptcy cases.

1520: Corporate Mergers, Antitrust Regulation, Corporate Management Issues and Incorporation of Businesses, Associations, and Nonprofits

Examples: unfair business competition, antitrust issues, price fixing agreements, monopoly problems in regulated industries, limited partnership regulations, foreign acquisition of firms in state, corporate management structure, hostile corporate takeovers, regulations governing the incorporation of businesses and associations, laws to prohibit restraints of trade, licensing of corporations, nonprofit organizations, regulation of organization of nonprofits, regulation of nonprofit status to ensure charitable purpose, enforcement of standards for nonprofit status.

See also: 803 oil industry deregulation; 1501 banking deregulation; 1003 airline deregulation; 1005 railroad deregulation; 1006 trucking deregulation; 1305 social service aspect of nonprofits; 1505 insurance industry regulation; 1526 sports regulation; 1706 telephone deregulation.

1521: Small Business Issues

Examples: appropriations and programs promoting small businesses, small business credit availability problems, health insurance cost burden on small businesses, government assistance

to small business, small business competitiveness under current liability laws, problems of small businesses complying with environmental regulations, loans to small businesses, impact of deregulation on small trucking businesses, promotion of women in small business, impact of product liability costs on small business, increases in small business failures, impact of state regulations on small business, access to capital for small business, government competition with small business.

See also: 201 minority business programs; 1523 small business disaster loan programs.

1522: Copyrights and Patents

1523: Domestic Disaster Preparedness and Relief

Examples: Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) budget requests and appropriations, aid for flood disasters, flood insurance reform, earthquake preparedness, PEMA disaster planning and relief operations, disaster loans, emergency credit extension to farmers in disaster areas, hurricane protection projects, early warning systems, drought relief, relief of citizens affected by Centralia mine fire.

See also: 801 nuclear plant safety; 1612 national guard.

1524: Tourism

Examples: promotion of tourism, using tourism to promote development of rural economies, problems for foreign visitors, status of state tourism industry, state tourism programs, regulation of travel agents, hotel room sales taxes used to support the promotion of tourism.

See also: 530 immigration and refugee issues; 1403 urban economic development and general urban issues; 1405 rural economic development; 1411 general state economic development.

1525: Consumer Safety and Consumer Fraud

Examples: deceptive mailings and solicitations, consumer reporting reform, auto repair fraud, state consumer protection standards, standards for product liability, child car seat safety, infomercials and consumer protection, deceptive ads in the diet industry, telemarketing fraud, debt collection and consumer abuse, penalties for consumer product tampering, the consumer protection advocacy movement, regulation of deceptive practices in the funeral industry, cosmetic safety, false and misleading advertising, consumer affairs, control of flammable fabrics, automobile lemon laws, establishment of a telemarketing 'do not call' registry, regulation of gasoline and gas stations, email phishing.

See also: 708 protection from indoor radiation hazards; 1504 fraudulent land sales, predatory lending.

1526: Sports and Gambling Regulation

Examples: regulation of legalized gaming, regulation of small games of chance, health and safety standards for boxing, promotion of professional standards for boxing, regulation of horse racing, status of amateur sports, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, treatment of compulsive gambling.

See also: 1403 Construction of sports facilities; 2404 property tax relief.

1527: Regulation of Services

Examples: regulation and licensing of occupations such as funeral directors, beauticians, barbers, cosmetologists, real estate brokers, public accountants, act regulating circumstances under which innkeepers may deny accommodations to persons, registration and regulation of telemarketing companies, regulation of car dealerships, regulation of graves and graveyards.

See also: 325 health and manpower training, licensing, regulation of doctors and medical services; 345 regulation of ambulance services; 405 animal and crop disease and pest control, licensing of veterinarians, regulation of pet breeders; 508 regulation of child day care facilities; 602 elementary and secondary education, certification standards for public school teachers; 1007 trucking industry regulation; 1204 regulation of lawyers and legal profession; 1208: Marriage and Family Issues, licensure of marriage and family therapists; 1215 notary public; 1305 Social Services and Volunteer Associations, licensure of social workers, 1501 State Banking System and Financial Institution Regulation; 1502 securities and commodities regulation, licensure of securities-related businesses; 1504 regulation of companies engaged in automobile repossession; 1520 regulation of charitable and nonprofit organizations; 1528 regulation of the sale of alcohol; 1706 telephone and telecommunication regulation; 1707 broadcast industry regulation.

1528: Regulation of Alcohol

Examples: operations of Liquor Control Board, regulation of the sale of alcohol, increases in liquor taxes, enforcement of minimum age for purchasing and/or using alcohol.

See also: 342 alcohol abuse and treatment; 344 drug and alcohol or substance abuse treatment.

1599: Other

16. Defense

1600: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget requests and appropriations, military or veterans bills covering multiple topics.

1602: U.S. and Other Defense Alliances, U.S Security Assistance

1603: Military Intelligence, CIA, Espionage

1604: Military Readiness, Coordination of Armed Services Air Support and Sealift Capabilities, and National Stockpiles of Strategic Materials

1605: Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation

1606: Military Aid and Weapons Sales to other Countries

1608: Manpower, Military Personnel and Dependents (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines), Military Courts

Examples: state benefits for U.S. military personnel, Pennsylvania's Military Family Relief Assistance Program.

See also: 1407 military housing programs.

1609: Veterans Issues and Veterans Administration/Affairs (VA) Issues.

Examples: veterans programs budget requests, veteran's job training, problems faced by Vietnam era veterans, providing tax exemptions for veterans and surviving spouse of veterans, establish Veterans' Day as a holiday, military services for public employment and pension purposes, veterans burial issues, Veterans' health benefits.

See also: 601 veterans education benefits; 1407 veterans housing assistance; 1409 homeless veterans; 2004 non-state service credits for public employment and pension purposes unless purchase of military service is specified, in which case 1609.

1610: Military Procurement and Weapons System Acquisitions and Evaluation

1611: Military Installations, Construction, and Land Transfers

1612: National Guard and Reserve Affairs

Examples: reserve officer personnel management, army reserve force structure, deactivation problems of reserve units, management of reserve air fleet, National Guard tort claims, survivor

benefits for reservists, reserve members payments for life insurance, National Guard retirement credit, reserve pay, flight training for ROTC, status of reserve facilities, promotion system for reserve officers, composition of the naval reserve.

See also: 601 ROTC college education; 1523 domestic disaster relief; 1616 military base closings.

1614: Military Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Disposal, Military Environmental Compliance

See also: 704 nonmilitary hazardous waste disposal.

1615: Civil Defense (war related)

Example: civil defense measures in the event of war.

See also: 1523 PEMA domestic (weather related) disaster relief.

1616: Civilian Employment by the Defense Industry, Military Base Closings

Examples: assist workers affected by defense spending cuts, assist communities affected by DOD facilities closures, peacetime conversion of defense industry, effects of defense industry employment on state, state opposition to base closure recommendations, Pennsylvania Base Development Committee to retain and promote Pennsylvania's military installations.

1617: Oversight of Defense Contracts and Contractors

1619: Direct War Related Issues

1620: Relief of Claims Against U.S. Military

1698: Research and Development

1699: Other

17. Space, Science, Technology and Communications

1700: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: state efforts to promote science and technology.

1701: NASA , U.S. Government Use of Space, Space Exploration Agreements

1704: Commercial Use of Space, Satellites

1705: Science Technology Transfer, International Scientific Cooperation

1706: Telephone and Telecommunication Regulation

Examples: Public Utility Commission regulation of telephone and cell phones, state communications infrastructure, mobile communications, telephone network reliability, unauthorized switching of consumers to long distance carriers, telecommunication development in rural areas, AT&T regulation, PUC regulation of telephone rates, telecommunications research and policy development, PUC regulatory practice in telecommunications, dial-a-porn regulation, upgrading 911 capabilities, amendments to the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act (911).

See also: 107 taxes affecting utilities; 208 telephone privacy, wiretapping; 800 Public Utilities Commission issues affecting both energy and phone companies; 1405 rural economic development; 1525 telephone marketing fraud; 1527 registration and regulation of telemarketing companies.

1707: Broadcast Industry Regulation (TV, Cable, Radio)

Examples: state and local laws affecting cable television, legislation and grants affecting the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, use of TV in the classroom for educational purposes, competitive problems in the cable industry, franchising laws.

See also: 207 freedom of speech.

1708: Weather Forecasting and Related Issues, NOAA, Oceanography

1709: Computer Industry and Computer Security

Examples: providing a sales tax exclusion for sales of computer software, high-performance computer development, computer viruses, superconductivity research, security standards for government computers, lease of computer software.

1798: Research and Development

1799: Other

18. Foreign Trade

1800: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

1802: Trade Negotiations, Disputes, and Agreements

1803: Export Promotion and Regulation, Export-Import Bank

Examples: state efforts to promote foreign trade for Pennsylvania companies and farmers, Pennsylvania Trade Authority.

1804: International Private Business Investments, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

1806: Productivity and Competitiveness of State Businesses

Examples: state industrial trade competitiveness, state role in supporting hi-tech competitiveness, state international economic competitiveness, legislation requiring use of domestic products.

See also: 108 state industry productivity.

1807: Tariff and Import Restrictions, Import Regulation

1808: Exchange Rates and Related Issues

1899: Other

19. International Affairs and Foreign Aid

1900: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

1901: U.S. Foreign Aid

1902: International Resources Exploitation and Resources Agreement

1905: Developing Countries Issues (for financial issues see 1906)

1906: International Finance and Economic Development

1907: China

1908: Soviet Union and Former Republics

1909: Eastern Europe

1910: Western Europe, Common Market Issues

1911: Africa

1912: South Africa Example: restricting business or trade with South Africa.

1914: Latin America (South America, Central America, Mexico, Caribbean Basin, Cuba)

1915: Panama Canal Issues and Other International Canal Issues

1919: Asia, Pacific Rim, Australia, and Japan

1920: Middle East

1925: Human Rights Example: Holocaust

1926: International Organizations other than Finance: United Nations (UN), UNESCO, International Red Cross

1927: Terrorism, Hijacking

Examples: antiterrorist measures and plans, cooperation with federal anti-terrorism agencies, legal mechanisms to combat terrorism.

1929: U.S. Diplomats, U.S. Embassies, U.S. Citizens Abroad, Foreign Diplomats in the U.S., Passports

1999: Other

20. State Government Operations

2000: General (includes supplemental budget requests and appropriations for multiple departments and agencies)

Example: Administrative Code bills covering multiple topics, no one of which is clearly dominant and would call for another policy code.

2001: Intergovernmental Relations

Examples: federal aid to state and local government, impact of federal aid cuts and other policy changes on state and local governments, effect of federal mandates on state and local governments, effect of state mandates on local governments.

See also: topic code 24 Local Government and Governance.

2002: Government Efficiency and Bureaucratic Oversight

Examples: quality improvement strategies, restructuring the public sector, performance standards for state agency programs, agency jurisdiction overlap and reform, need to improve government printing practices, government management problems, rule making committees in the development of state regulations, state agency use of advisory committees, state agency internal accounting standards, effort to reduce state paperwork, allowing industry to comment on proposed state regulations, decreasing agency reports to the legislature, legislative oversight of state agency programs, government waste and abuse, investigations into mismanagement of state agencies, government reorganization plans, conflicts of interest in regulatory agencies, applying economic analysis to public programs, executive reorganization or executive branch reorganization, government goals, use of recycled paper and products for government printing.

See also: appropriations for departments and agencies: see topical field.

2003: Postal Service Issues (Including Mail Fraud)

2004: Government Employee Benefits, Civil Service Issues

Examples: state and local employee collective bargaining rights, civil service retirement benefits, Public School Employees Retirement Fund, state agency use of temporary employees, state employee leave policy, state employee wage policies, regulation of local employee retirement systems, whistle blower protection for state employees, state personnel awards, executive personnel exchange, reform of state employee health benefits, tort protection for state employees, reform pay system for state workers, early retirement program for state workers, government personnel training programs, state employee contribution requirement, personnel

performance appraisal system, payroll deductions for state employees, oversight of the civil service retirement system, cost of living allowances for state employees, civil service pension fund and interest earnings, manpower utilization in the state government, gubernatorial compensation, state employee management relations, legislative pay and legislative wages, combinations of legislative, executive, and judicial pay, reduction in force, merit systems protection board, efforts to restrict felons from public employment. Non-state service credits for public employment and pension purposes, day care for government employees.

See also: 200 discrimination in state government employment; 1609 military service credits for public employment and pension purposes; 2012 political activities of state employees, part-time/temporary election workers.

2005: Nominations and Appointments

Examples: nominations and appointments for all departments and agencies.

2006: Currency, Commemorative Coins, Medals, U.S. Mint

Example: statehood commemorative coins.

2007: Government Procurement, Procurement Fraud and Contractor Management

Examples: government procurement system, state acquisition improvement, arbitration of service contract disputes, state agency contractor management, penalties for state procurement fraud, timeliness of state payments to private vendors, efforts by state agencies to circumvent the competition in contracting act, state contract auditing policies, fraud in state procurement programs, state consulting service contracts, commission on government procurement, state contract renegotiation act, omnibus contracting legislation, limitations on county, municipal and authority contracting, requirements for government and government contractors to purchase products produced in Pennsylvania or the United States.

2008: Government Property Management

Examples: state facilities construction, Department of General Services management of public building leases, Department of General Services capital improvement program, government office space contract management, property sale authorization for state agencies, sale of state buildings, donation of surplus federal property to state and local governments, construction of a state agency office, relocation assistance and property acquisitions, donation of surplus federal property to state and local governments, motor vehicles provided to officers and members of the state government, state conveyance of office buildings, designation of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

See also: 2100 conveyance of real property.

2009: Department of Revenue Administration

Examples: Department of Revenue tax system modernization, Department of Revenue employee misconduct, taxpayer assistance and treatment, settlement of disputes between tax payers and Department of Revenue, Department of Revenue collection of delinquent income taxes, Department of Revenue benefit plans regulations, Department of Revenue internal management and quality of service, Department of Revenue processing of income tax returns, reorganization of the Department of Revenue, taxpayers bill of rights, creation of a Taxpayer's Rights Advocate, investigation or inspection of tax records by state agencies or legislative committees, recovery of delinquent funds by the state Treasurer's office.

See also: 107 state taxation.

2010: Impeachment, Scandal and Recall

Examples: Efforts to impeach and remove from office the chief executive or judges, recalls of governors or mayors.

See also: 2007 procurement fraud and contractor management; 2012 government ethics.

2011: State Government Branch Relations Administrative Issues, Legislative Operations

Examples: operations of the legislature, legislative rules, legislative investigations, legislative reorganization, legislative service and research organizations, investigations of legislators, reapportionment of state legislative districts, reapportionment of U.S. House districts, gubernatorial veto issues, line-item veto issues, pocket veto issues, governor's claims of executive privilege, governor's emergency powers, continuity of state government during an emergency, issues related to the State Library, depository libraries and archives, gubernatorial transition issues.

See also: 208 sunshine and open meeting laws; 1523 disaster relief.

2012: Regulation of Elections, Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, Campaign Contributions, Voter Registration, Government Ethics

Examples: scheduling of elections, regulation of the conduct of state elections, state regulation of the conduct of local elections, appropriations for the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation (in Department of State) and State Ethics Commission, state election campaign reform, lobbying regulations for former state employees, regulation of political campaign ads, televising debates on political issues, regulation on foreign corporation lobbying, campaign

finance reform, prohibition of political activity by state employees, financial or business interests of legislative employees, lobbying regulations, polling, local government corruption, judicial election contests, corruption (theft of services by government officials), part-time/temporary election workers.

See also: 1204 legislation affecting the selection of judges (2012 includes discussion of judicial election contests, but not laws affecting how PA selects its judges); 2010 recall elections.

2013: Census

Examples: Census bureau's population estimates and impact on state funding, effects of census undercounting on the state and its local governments.

2014: District of Columbia Affairs

2015: Relief of Claims Against the State and Local Government

Examples: refunds and settlements for individuals and corporations, issues of sovereign immunity, issues of local government liability.

2016: State Lottery Operations

Examples: estimates of lottery receipts, issues with respect to administration of lottery, selection and identification of lottery winners, taxation of lottery winners, investigations into lottery corruption.

See also: 335 prescription drug coverage and costs; 1001 mass transportation and safety; 1303 elderly issues and elderly assistance programs; 2404 state authorizations or restrictions on taxation powers of local government and property tax relief.

2017: Initiative and Referendum

Examples: proposals to allow the voters to initiate and approve legislation without the involvement of the Pennsylvania General Assembly or to repeal statutes or parts of statutes approved by the legislature and the governor, issues-specific referenda authorized by the legislature should be coded by their relevant policy code.

See also: 2010 recall.

2030: State Holidays and Observances

Examples: activities of state holiday and commemorative commissions, provide for uniform annual observances of legal public holidays on Mondays, designation of Ronald Reagan Day, designation of Tartan Day, designation of St. David's Day.

See also: 201 designation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday week; 331 designation of American Heart Month; 404 designation of Pennsylvania Horticultural Week; 1303 designation of Older Americans Month; 1501 designation of Community Banking Week.

2031: State Commemorative Legislation and Resolutions

Example: designation of "Hats off to Pennsylvania" as the official song of PA, designation of the ruffed grouse as the official bird of Pennsylvania.

See also: 712 recognition of 70th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsman's Clubs; 1002 naming of roads and bridges.

2099: Other

Examples: government check cashing problems, review winning papers in a high school essay contest, state audio-visual materials, catalog of state assistance programs, bicentennial celebration, free guide service at state Capitol.

21. Public Lands and Water Management

2100: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: budget Requests and Appropriations for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), resources planning, activities and programs of the DCNR, conveyance of real property from the federal government to states, conveyances that do not specifically mention the purpose, use or type of the conveyance.

See also: 322 state conveyances of hospitals; 1400 land conveyances for economic development programs; 2008 state conveyance of office buildings; 2101 land conveyance for state parks or state memorials, land conveyance for monuments and historic sites; 2102 land conveyance involving Native American lands or Native American groups; 2103 multiple types of conveyances of public lands.

2101: State Parks, Memorials, Historic Sites, and Recreation

Examples: budget requests for state parks, concessions management at state parks, park protection legislation, management of state parks, Pennsylvania State Parks feasibility study,

threats to state parks, state forest recreation facilities, state park management issues, river systems recreation assessment, community recreation enhancement, recreational boating safety in state parks, historical park designation, designation of scenic trails, maintenance on monuments and memorials, proposals for a state visitors center, military parks and memorials, land conveyance for state parks or state memorials, land conveyance for monuments and historic sites, historic preservation programs, creation of Pennsylvania Heritage Parks, granting restricted right of way allowing cable television transmission lines to cross state parks, United States Constitutional Bicentennial commissions, protection of cemeteries.

See also: 1527 regulation of graves and graveyards; 2103 public lands management.

2102: Native American Affairs

Examples: efforts to secure state recognition of Indian tribes, management of Indian irrigation projects, Indian participation in government contracting, Native American claims settlement, land conveyance involving Native American lands or Native American groups, Indian gambling and casinos. (Special Note: This covers many subject areas that would normally be coded in other subtopics (housing, medical programs, transportation systems, etc.)

See also: 1526: sports and gambling regulation.

2103: Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Forest Management

Examples: timber issues, forest health and clear-cutting, wilderness area designation, management of old forest growths, mine reclamation on public lands, various public lands bills, forest fire prevention and control, modification of public land boundaries, management of livestock on public lands, enforcement of federal and state mining standards, development of mineral resources on public lands, mineral exploration and development, conveyance of public lands where no purpose is specified, conveyance of sewage systems on public lands, protection of archeological resources on public lands, conveyance of public lands, payments to the state from receipts derived from national forests located within the state, protecting the shores of publicly owned property.

See also: 602 conveyance of public lands to school districts; 601 conveyance of public lands to institutions of higher education; 706 coal mine subsidence and reclamation; 709 animal and forest protection; 712 regulation of hunting, fishing and recreational boating; 803 oil and gas; 805 coal; 1400 land conveyances for economic development purposes; 2101 land conveyance for national parks/monuments; 1002 conveyance of public lands for highway construction

2104: Water Resources Development and Research

Examples: budget requests and appropriations for civil works programs, budget requests and appropriations for energy and water development projects, flood control programs, appropriation

to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for flood forecast map, energy and water development projects, watershed projects, river dredging, port dredging issues, port governance, port appropriations, deep water port construction, safety of dams and other water storage and control structures, river irrigation projects, various reclamation projects, reservoir construction, navigation and flood control projects, interstate water compacts, connecting bodies of water, general reclamation projects; regulation of port authorities.

See also: 701 drinking water safety; 711 water and soil conservation; 802 hydroelectricity; 1007 navigation and maritime issues.

2105: U.S. Dependencies and Territorial Issues

2199: Other

24 Local Governments and Governance

2400: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)

Examples: local government organization, administrative duties or procedures, intergovernmental cooperation agreements, or employee issues across government types (counties, municipalities, special districts) rather than with just one type.

See also: 2004 government employee benefits; 2007 limitations on county, municipal and authority contracting; 2404 local taxes and revenue policies.

2401: Counties

Examples: the classification of counties, changing or adding administrative duties and procedures of counties, authorizing counties to adopt home rule form of government, authorizing intergovernmental cooperation agreements involving counties.

See also: 1010 local public works employment projects; 1213 property and real estate law, eminent domain and state regulation of local property laws; 2001 intergovernmental relations, federal aid to local governments, effects of state mandates on local governments; 2004 local employee collective bargaining rights, regulation of local employee retirement systems; 2007 limitations on county, municipal and authority contracting; 2012 state regulation of the conduct of local elections; 2404 county taxing powers or issues, including property tax assessment procedures.

2402: Municipalities (Cities, townships, boroughs, and towns)

Examples: incorporation or dissolution of municipalities; changing the classification of municipalities; authorizing home rule, regulation, annexation or consolidation of municipalities; affecting residency requirements for local officials; authorizing intergovernmental cooperation agreements with other governments; affecting municipal government employee compensation; providing for special governance arrangements or powers due to fiscal distress.

See also: 345 ambulance services; 700 amendments to the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act; 703 state management of municipal waste, municipal sewage problems; 1002 State Highway Law provisions applicable to all municipalities; 1010 local public works employment projects; 1209 police, fire, and weapons control; 1213 property and real estate law, eminent domain and state regulation of local property laws and regulation of landlord-tenant issues; 1402 zoning and growth management, changes to the state Municipalities Planning Code; 1403 urban economic development and general urban issues; 2001 intergovernmental relations, federal aid to local governments, effects of state mandates on local governments; 2004 local employee collective bargaining rights, regulation of local employee retirement systems; 2007 limitations on county, municipal and authority contracting; 2012 state regulation of the conduct of local elections; 2404 municipal taxing powers or issues.

2403: Governance of Multi-Purpose Special Districts, Agencies, or Areas

Examples: authorizing or altering the governance of *multi-purpose*, multi-jurisdictional, or sub-jurisdictional districts or authorities, such as the Allegheny Regional Asset District; cross-cutting amendments to underlying laws that authorize local governments to create authorities in a variety of policy areas, many of which are found in Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. An amendment changing the governance structure of all of these authorities, say from a five-member to a seven-member board, would be coded here, because it cross-cuts policy areas and is primarily about governance.

See also: 322 hospital authorities; 602 school districts; 701 regulation of water authorities; 703 sewer and solid waste authorities; 1000 parking authorities; 1001 mass transit authorities; 1003 airport authorities; 1213 eminent domain; 1300 tax relief for the poor, elderly and disabled; 1400 redevelopment authorities; 1403 convention center authorities; 1406 housing authorities; 1411 authorization of business improvement districts (BIDs); 2004 local employee collective bargaining rights, regulation of local employee retirement systems; 2007 limitations on county, municipal and authority contracting; 2104 regulation of port authorities; 2401 municipal leasing authorities; 2404 multi-purpose district taxing powers or issues.

2404: Local tax and revenue policies, including property tax relief (taxes, fees, etc.)

Examples: major local taxes and broad-based fees, even for school districts, Local Tax Enabling Act amendments, authorizations or restrictions on school district taxes, local property taxes, local sales taxes, local earned income tax, local business gross receipts tax, local occupational privilege tax, Philadelphia wage and net profits tax, Philadelphia unearned income tax, local

taxation of public charities, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) by nonprofit organizations and charities and where policy area is not discernible, municipal services fees, state Tax Equalization Board, amendment of Second Class Township Code further providing for township tax levies, amendment of municipal code providing for periodic payment of school taxes, amendment to Tax Reform Code of 1971 requiring that all employers withhold wage taxes levied by cities of the first class, local tax amnesty, amendments to the Sterling Act (affecting Philadelphia's taxing powers).

See also: 105 tax and expenditure limits; 107 state taxation and state tax amnesty; 602 development impact fees for school districts; 703 municipal waste disposal fees; 1213 issues involving the realty transfer tax; 1302 poverty exemptions to state and local taxes; 1303 property tax relief for senior citizens; 1400 development impact fee; 1403 PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) used to facilitate the construction of stadiums and similar economic development projects, hotel room sales taxes used to support the construction of convention centers; 1524 hotel room sales taxes used to support the promotion of tourism; 1526 sports and gambling regulation; 2016 state lottery operation; 1520 Regulation of nonprofits as a business entity.

2405: State Authorizations or Restrictions on Local Government Debt

Examples: Regulation of bonds, debt limits for municipalities; whether municipality is in distress or not in distress; borrowing money related to the value of property.

2499: Other

Adapted to Pennsylvania state government by Joseph McLaughlin, Wesley Leckrone and Jason Bossie from the national codebook written by Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones, and revised by Scott Adler and John Wilkerson. Most recently revised by Joseph McLaughlin, Jay Jennings, and Michelle Atherton on May 26, 2011.

PA Policy Database Project Changes to National Coding System

The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project has attempted to conform to the codes and subcodes created by the United States national Policy Agendas project. However, in the American federal system the policy activities and responsibilities of state governments differ from the national governments in a number of important areas. This appendix summarizes our changes.

Summary: The PA Policy Database Project has made the following changes to the national codebook:

- 1) 15 Substantive Changes: 2 Major Topic Code and 13 Subtopic Codes
- 2) 22 Subtopic Additions
- 3) 1 Eliminated Federal Major Topic Code
- 4) 44 Unused Federal Subcodes – these subtopics remain in the codebook, however all examples have been eliminated

Substantive Changes

This list includes topics/subtopics where there was a substantive change or addition to the category. It does not include minor changes such as the insertion of “state” in place of “federal” or instances where the name of a federal agency was removed or changed to the corresponding state agency.

Major Topic Code: 1: Changed from Macroeconomics to Fiscal and Economic Issues

100: General Domestic Macroeconomic Issues changed to General Fiscal and Economic Issues

105: National Budget and Debt changed to State Operating Budget, State Capital Budget and Debt

325: Health Manpower and Training changed to Health Manpower and Training and Licensing Issues

405: Animal and Crop Disease and Pest Control changed to Animal and Crop Disease, Pest Control and Domestic Pets

701: Drinking Water Safety changed to Water Supply and Drinking Water Safety

1006: Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety changed to Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety (Including Registration and Licensing)

1208: Family Issues changed to Marriage and Family Issues

1210: Criminal and Civil Code changed to Criminal Code

1520: Corporate Mergers, Antitrust Regulation and Corporate Management Issues changed to Corporate Mergers, Antitrust Regulation, Corporate Management Issues and Incorporation of Businesses and Associations

1523: Domestic Disaster Relief changed to Domestic Disaster Preparedness and Relief

1806: Productivity and Competitiveness of U.S. Business, U.S. Balance of Payments changed to Productivity and Competitiveness of State Business

2010: Impeachment and Scandal changed to Impeachment, Scandal and Recall

2012: Regulation of Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, PAC Regulation, Voter Registration, Government Ethics changed to Regulation of Elections, Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, Campaign Contributions, Voter Registration, Government Ethics

24: State and Local Government Administration changed to Local Governments and Governance

Subcode Additions

Addition: 210: Abortion and Alternatives to Abortion

Addition: 345: Provision and Regulation of Ambulance Services

Addition: 706: Coal Mine Subsidence and Reclamation

Addition: 712: Regulation of Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Boating

Addition: 1008: Alternative Means of Transportation

Addition: 1212: Probate and Estate Law

Addition: 1213: Property and Real Estate Law

Addition: 1214: State Tort Law and Tort Law Reform

Addition: 1215: Notary Public

Addition: 1402: Zoning and Growth Management

Addition: 1411: General State Economic Development

Addition: 1527: Regulation of Services

Addition: 1528: Regulation of Alcohol

Addition: 2016: State Lottery Operations

Addition: 2017: Initiative and Referendum

Addition: 2031: State Commemorative Legislation and Resolutions

Additions Under 24 Local Governments and Governance Major Topic Code:

2400: General Local Government and Governance (multiple topics)

2401: Counties

2402: Municipalities

2403: Governance of Multi-Purpose Special Districts, Agencies or Areas

2404: Local Tax and Revenue Policies, Including Property Tax Relief (Taxes, Fees, etc.)

2405: State Authorizations or Restrictions on Local Government Debt

2499: Other

Eliminated Codes and Subcodes

Only one topic or subtopic code has been eliminated:

23: Culture and Entertainment

Unused Subtopic Codes

The PA Policy Database Project has tried not to eliminate any of the topic or subtopic codes from the federal codebook. However, we have identified 43 instances where there is a relatively small likelihood of state policy corresponding to federal policy (not including general or other subcodes). These subtopics remain in the codebook, however all examples have been eliminated.

Bibliography

Baumgartner, Frank R., and Bryan D. Jones . 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. 2nd ed. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press.

McLaughlin, Joseph, et al. 2010. “The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project: A Model for Comparative Analysis.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* Vol. 10, No. 3 (Fall): 320-336.

Major Topics Codes

<u>Code</u>	<u>Category</u>
1	Fiscal and Economic Issues
2	Civil Rights and Liberties
3	Health
4	Agriculture
5	Labor, Employment, Immigration
6	Education
7	Environment
8	Energy
10	Transportation
12	Law, Crime, and Family
13	Social Welfare
14	Community Development, Housing Issues
15	Banking, Finance, Domestic Commerce
16	Defense
17	Space, Science, Technology, Communications
18	Foreign Trade
19	International Affairs and Foreign Aid
20	State Government Operations
21	Public Lands and Water Management
24	Local Government and Governance