

The LBFC PERFORMANCE REPORT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE



MEDIA COVERAGE...

The LBFC report, [*A Study in Response to Act 2019-20: Non-Economic Impacts of Single-Use Container Bans/Fees*](#), has received considerable attention since its release on June 30. In the report, the LBFC evaluated the “environmental impact and any impact upon residents of this Commonwealth from any regulation impacting single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings, or polystyrene containers.”

Act 2019-20 had preempted municipalities from enacting bans on single-use plastics through July 1, 2020, and required the LBFC to study the issue.

LBFC’s study found most regulations on single-use plastic bags across the nation are a hybrid approach of bans and fees and that state municipalities were evenly split as to whether they were effective. Most survey respondents concluded that a ban, a fee, or some hybrid approach dealing with plastic bags were unimportant.

Below highlights a few instances in which the study [*A Study in Response to Act 2019-20: Non-Economic Impacts of Single-Use Container Bans/Fees*](#) was the subject of reporting or additional discussion:

- Justin Sweitzer, a State Government Reporter for The PLS Reporter, provided an overview of the report for the Pennsylvania Legislative Services.
- LBFC Chair Senator Robert Mensch and Rep. Greg Vitali individually appeared on PCN Primetime in July to separately discuss the report.
- Press releases about the study were issued by Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, Representative Johnathan Hershey, and PennEnvironment, an environmental advocacy organization.
- Various news articles on the study appeared in Penn Capitol-Star and Capitolwire.com – Under The Dome.™
- An article about the LBFC study was included in the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee September newsletter.
- And [*A Study in Response to Act 2019-20: Non-Economic Impacts of Single-Use Container Bans/Fees*](#) was also discussed on Bigfoot 92.5 country music radio station.

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WITH APPRECIATION...

With the close of the 2019-20 legislative session, Rep. Stephen Barrar retired from his position serving the 160th legislative district in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives and his membership on the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee (LBFC). Rep. Barrar was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1997 and had been Chair of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness committee since 2010. Rep. Barrar is a navy veteran and a longtime champion advocating for community first responders, veterans, and active duty and reserve military personnel.

He was appointed a member of the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee in the 2007-08 legislative session and served as Secretary of the LBFC during the 2019-20 session.



Rep. Barrar's 14 years of LBFC service translates to 137 studies and reports reviewed, discussed, and released. His hard work and dedication to the role of the LBFC and its value to the deliberative process will be missed. We wish him and his family the very best as he retires. 'Non sibi sed patriae.' Thank you Rep. Barrar.

NLPES AUDIT REPORT LIBRARY...

The National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES) is establishing an audit report library. Its purpose is to assist fellow audit offices in finding recent reports by other states on topics of interest to each other. To begin, NLPES Executive Committee members are submitting reports from their offices for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (as released). If the pilot project is successful, the report library will be expanded. The ultimate goal is to have included reports from all legislative program evaluation and performance audit offices for a five-year period.

Each topic in the library has an individual website and the reports are sorted by year. Within each year's listing, reports are organized by state. Each report citation includes the report's title, release date, publication number (if used) and audit office. To access a full report, go to the agency's website, a link to which is provided at the end of each report citation. The library can be accessed by clicking this [link](#). NLPES welcomes feedback about the audit report library pilot project.



LBFC BABY NEWS...

Happy news to report in LBFC-land! LBFC's Office Resource Manager, Lauren Bordner, and her husband Adam Ohnmacht became proud parents of a daughter, Adelynn Bea. Lauren gave birth to Adelynn on October 5 at 11:53 am. Adelynn weighed 8lbs 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches in length.

Lauren reports that Adelynn's name was chosen by Adam as a blending of Adam's and Lauren's first names. Lauren selected the middle name because of her love of honey bees. Lauren also says Adelynn inherited Adam's ability to sleep well at night, which makes it a challenge to work during the day--what with a baby in one arm and a mouse in the other.

Lauren confirms, as the picture shows, that Adelynn is "just a doll."

PROJECT RELEASES...

On October 7, 2020, the LBFC released two new reports:

- HR 507: A study analyzing the current Pennsylvania health and human services hotlines and their cost to the Commonwealth.
- Act 2019-107: A financial analysis of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

In the HR 507 report, the LBFC identified a total of 66 Pennsylvania health and human services hotlines operated (or contracted) at a combined cost of more than \$75.4 million dollars in FY 2018-19. LBFC analysis identified the services provided, staffing, cost and appropriations, operational hours, etc., for each hotline, to the

extent data was maintained and was available from the Commonwealth agencies. This data was gathered utilizing a 15-point hotline information request we developed and provided to each of the agencies. The report was presented by Project Manager Jason Brehouse and is available to read in full by clicking this [link](#).

For the Act 107 report, the LBFC conducted a retrospective financial analysis. To prepare LBFC's financial analysis of PGC revenues and expenditures, staff obtained data from PGC annual reports, the Commonwealth's SAP accounting system, and Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Staff used this information to calculate financial indicators necessary to analyze the PGC's fiscal condition. To measure the overall fiscal health of the PGC, LBFC chose 17 financial indicators based on the availability of data and their appropriateness for the PGC. Of the trends calculated, for the analysis, eight are favorable, seven are cautionary, and two present a warning. The report was presented by Deputy Executive Director Christopher Latta and is available to read in full by clicking this [link](#).

COVID-RELATED STUDY...

As the 2019-20 legislative session was nearing an end, the House adopted HR 1087, giving the LBFC an initial study related to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The LBFC is in the process of reviewing data collection by the Department of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic and will issue interim reports every 90 days.

PRIOR REPORT ACTIVITY...

A Study of the Impact of Venue for Medical Professional Liability Actions:

The LBFC Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director participated in a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 8, 2020, to discuss the LBFC report *A Study of the Impact of Venue for Medical Professional Liability Actions*. They presented a brief overview of the report and responded to statements made by other panel participants about the LBFC's work as well as questions from the committee members.

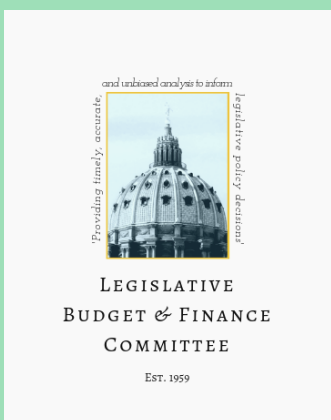
A Study of Pennsylvania's Dairy Industry:

The Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission released its report on the state dairy industry on August 1, 2020. Although the report did not endorse all of the LBFC's recommendations from the September 2019 report, it did endorse dropping the 17-day sell-by date, as well as improved transparency on over/order premiums and expanding innovation in the industry (all LBFC recommendations). They cited LBFC's report as to the need for licensing retailers (as LBFC had recommended) but noted the commission prefers to license distributors as there was "concern about undue licensing and reporting burdens on many small, independent, and family corner stores." While not exactly the LBFC recommendation, it achieves the same purpose as had been recommended (capturing data on out-of-state milk sales). What is more, the commission credited the LBFC for being the impetus for the legislative change. They also cited the LBFC report as a "thorough [study] documenting the historic challenges and complex issues the dairy industry faces daily."





The mission of the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget & Finance Committee is to provide members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly timely, accurate, and unbiased information, analysis, and performance evaluation to inform their policy decisions.



<http://bfc.legis.state.pa.us/>



ONGOING PROJECTS...

HR 1087 of 2020: Requires a review of data collection by the Department of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. LBFC to issue interim reports every 90 days beginning 90 days after the adoption of this resolution.

Act 2018-90: Requires a study and evaluation of grants by the Pennsylvania Department of Health under the state's Organ Donor Trust Fund (ready for release)

Act 1995-1/17: A study of the adequacy of fees charged in the PA Instant Check system for firearms purchases (ready for release)

HR 515 of 2019: Requires the LBFC to conduct a comprehensive study of changes in access to county-managed community health services between fiscal years 2010 through 2018

Act 2016-20: Requires LBFC to conduct a study of certain patient outcomes when using lay caregivers

PENNSYLVANIA TRIVIA...

America's oldest gas station is in Pennsylvania. Reighard's Gold Star Service Station is located in Altoona, has been open for business since 1909, and still offers full service.

LBFC STAFF

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