
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 577 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, WHEATLEY, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, DiGIROLAMO,
HENNESSEY, KINSEY, KORTZ, McCLINTON, MILLARD, MURT, READSHAW,
SONNEY AND STAATS, OCTOBER 21, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, OCTOBER 21, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on its
2 60th anniversary.

3 WHEREAS, After strong bipartisan legislative support in
4 passing the bill, on August 4, 1959, HB 260 was approved by the
5 Governor as Act 195 of 1959, thereby creating the Legislative
6 Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) as a bipartisan, bicameral
7 legislative service agency comprised of 12 members of the
8 General Assembly; and

9 WHEREAS, Act 195 authorizes the LBFC to conduct studies and
10 make recommendations to eliminate unnecessary expenditures,
11 promote economy in State government and assure that State funds
12 are being expended appropriately; and

13 WHEREAS, Initially, the LBFC reviewed budget numbers,
14 conducted random and unannounced visitations to State
15 facilities, reviewed the fiscal impact of bills, reviewed budget
16 requests and provided support at budget hearings; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1974, the core of the LBFC's activity was recast

1 to undertake comprehensive program evaluation studies, by which
2 it would do in-depth examinations of ongoing State programs and
3 agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, Between 1983 and 1991, the General Assembly also
5 tasked the LBFC with conducting sunset audits of a schedule of
6 86 Commonwealth agencies evaluating their continued need; and

7 WHEREAS, The LBFC has conducted hundreds of projects covering
8 a myriad of important public policy and State program areas such
9 as aging, emergency preparedness, rural affairs, transportation,
10 community and economic development, local government,
11 environmental protection, liquor control, education, health and
12 welfare, game and fisheries and veteran's affairs, among others;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The LBFC has received multiple impact awards from
15 the National Legislative Performance Evaluation Society
16 acknowledging the excellence of LBFC work; and

17 WHEREAS, The LBFC has maintained capable staff with strong
18 professional qualifications and backgrounds in areas, including
19 government research, budgeting, public administration, business
20 administration, accounting and law, among others; and

21 WHEREAS, The LBFC has functioned in a bipartisan, bicameral
22 manner with its four officers representing the four caucuses of
23 the General Assembly; and

24 WHEREAS, The mission of the LBFC remains "providing members
25 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly timely, accurate, and
26 unbiased information, analysis, and performance evaluation to
27 inform their policy decisions"; and

28 WHEREAS, Over its 60-year existence, the LBFC has ably
29 performed a vital and necessary role in Pennsylvania's
30 legislative process, helping to ensure proper accountability and

1 stewardship of public funds and resources, finding ways to
2 improve government, identifying critical issues to safeguard
3 public resources and strengthening government control systems;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, August 4, 2019, marks the 60-year anniversary of the
6 LBFC; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on its 60th
9 anniversary; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express
11 appreciation for the significant contribution that the members
12 and staff of the LBFC have made to the State legislative process
13 by providing independent, objective, bipartisan analysis and
14 assessments of the stewardship, performance and cost of
15 government with the unbiased goal of always improving
16 Pennsylvania's system of government for the benefit of this
17 Commonwealth.