

TREASURY DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARING WRAP

Wednesday, March 5, 2025



General Overview:

Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garrity and senior staff from the Treasury Department testified before the House Appropriations Committee this afternoon. Committee members focused on the programs overseen by Treasury and the Commonwealth's long-term fiscal health.

Key Takeaways:

- Treasurer Garrity expressed concerns about the future fiscal health of the Commonwealth. The General Fund surplus will soon be depleted, and the Rainy Day Fund will not be far behind. The Treasurer stated that Pennsylvania is headed toward a “fiscal cliff” as spending outpaces revenues.
 - Treasurer Garrity shared her concerns that spending the Commonwealth’s reserve funds will eventually lead to a downgrade in Pennsylvania’s credit rating.
- Under Treasurer Garrity’s leadership, the department has undertaken 87 initiatives, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.
 - The Treasurer also created a new [Treasury Transparency Portal](#), which provides accurate real-time information about the Commonwealth’s finances to the general public.
- The Treasury is responsible for returning unclaimed property to its rightful owners. Oftentimes, this property is in the form of uncashed checks and, on occasion, physical property. Treasurer Garrity has taken major strides in increasing outreach with the public to return property to Pennsylvania citizens.
- The Pennsylvania 529 plan is an education savings account that is open to all Pennsylvania students and allows savings to grow without incurring state tax liability. Treasurer Garrity is working with the legislature to update the program.
- Treasurer Garrity is leading on cyber security and took an essential step in banning the Chinese government-owned AI program DeepSeek from Treasury devices and computers.
- PA ABLE is a savings program that was passed by the legislature in 2016. It offers people with qualifying disabilities a way to save that does not affect their means-tested benefits.
 - This program, a testament to the Treasury's successful initiatives, now has 10,200 accounts, a clear sign of its success and the positive impact it has on the lives of people with qualifying disabilities.

Notable Q&A:



[Rep. Kristin Marcell and Treasurer Stacy Garrity discuss changes to the 529 savings program, which allows families to save for the costs of education.](#)

[Rep. Eric Nelson discusses the success of the PA ABLE plan.](#)



[Rep. Thomas Kutz asks Treasurer Stacy Garrity to provide an update on the fiscal health of Pennsylvania and how long our General Fund surplus and Rainy Day Fund will last.](#)

