

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL BUDGET HEARING WRAP

Monday, March 2, 2026



General Overview:

Pennsylvania Attorney General (AG) Dave Sunday and senior Office of Attorney General (OAG) staff testified before the House Appropriations Committee today. House Republicans focused their questions on human trafficking issues, recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel, alternative funding options, the Safe2Say Something program, and the difference between the funding requested by OAG and the amount of funding proposed under the Governor's Executive Budget.

Key Takeaways:

- For the OAG, the Governor is proposing \$171.5 million in General Fund spending in Fiscal Year 2026-27. This represents an overall increase of \$20.2 million, or 13.3%, over the current fiscal year.
 - Funding in the Governor's budget proposal is still \$19.2 million less than OAG requested for the upcoming fiscal year. House Republicans expressed concern about the ability of the OAG to perform its duties with the Governor again proposing less funding than requested.
- The OAG is partially funded by restricted accounts. The OAG is capped at \$2.5 million in funds recovered through settlements in Consumer Protection, which brought in \$102 million last year. AG Sunday would like to see the cap moved to \$5 million to fund additional operations within his office.
- During the hearing, AG Sunday shared that OAG has fewer attorneys than the Governor's Office of General Counsel despite OAG's broad responsibilities and important law enforcement functions.
- The AG echoed the committee's concerns about human trafficking in Pennsylvania and discussed actionable ways to combat this scourge in the Commonwealth.
 - AG Sunday shared that his office is seeking additional tools not included in the Governor's budget that would enhance OAG's ability to prosecute human traffickers.
 - With the high-profile events scheduled across the Commonwealth, Members shared that they are concerned that human trafficking may increase, a sentiment shared by AG Sunday.
- Members shared their concerns with the recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel across the board and shared their commitment to work with AG Sunday to end this looming crisis.
- Republican members were pleased to hear from AG Sunday that he prioritizes working with County District Attorneys and supporting their offices when they require training or assistance.
- The committee was also pleased to hear the success of the Safe2Say Program in reducing violence in our schools. Members expressed concern that the Governor's proposal does not include enough funding to run the program adequately.

Notable Q&A:



AG Sunday and Rep. Marla Brown discuss the lack of funding in the Governor's budget for combatting human trafficking.

Rep. Eric Nelson asks AG Sunday if more funding is needed to combat human trafficking, given the large events happening in Pennsylvania this year.



Rep. Kristin Marcell asks about the success of the Safe2Say Something program and about ways to improve it.