

AUDITOR GENERAL BUDGET HEARING WRAP

Thursday, March 6, 2025



General Overview:

Pennsylvania State Auditor General Tim DeFoor and senior staff from the Office of the Auditor General testified before the House Appropriations Committee this morning. The committee's inquiries were centered on the role of the Auditor General's Office as a watchdog and guardian of taxpayer funds. Since assuming office, Auditor General DeFoor has placed his focus on accountability of state government agencies and forward thinking while conducting audits.

Key Takeaways:

- Members shared concerns about the fairness of the many grants the state government issues. The Auditor General reassured the committee of his commitment to fairness and transparency, and his willingness to conduct more audits like the recent DCNR report to ensure the integrity of the process.
 - The Auditor General released a Performance Audit last month highlighting that DCNR ignored policies when awarding grants and did not award all grants competitively and transparently.
- Auditor General DeFoor continues to be deeply concerned about the fiscal health of many pension systems across the Commonwealth. While the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) are showing signs of stability, many municipal funds are still grappling with underfunding.
- Since taking office, Auditor General DeFoor has consolidated the education auditing process, saving taxpayer money while providing high quality audits.
- In terms of employee recruitment to the Auditor General's office, they have increased outreach with Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities.
- Committee members asked Auditor General DeFoor if his office can perform cross-agency audits on specific issues. One example given was auditing workforce development programs across agencies to look for duplicative services and efficiencies. The Auditor General expressed his openness to this possibility and his readiness to delve into the specifics.

Notable Q&A:



Rep. Zachary Mako asks Auditor General DeFoor if his office has been involved in the governor's REMAP plan.



Rep. Josh Kail discusses the positive changes Auditor General DeFoor has made with education audits.



Rep. Charity Krupa asks Auditor General DeFoor to discuss his recent audit of DCNR grants.