## Policy Topics Codebook

Last Updated March 4, 2010

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Note: The Pennsylvania State Codebook is modeled on the national public policy codebook developed for the national public policy database available at [www.policyagendas.org](http://www.policyagendas.org). As such, some categories are more relevant to federal than to state law and policies. These categories have been retained for the purpose of helping users understand the relationship between the two databases. The Pennsylvania database also includes codes not found in the national database, but these have been kept to a minimum. The most important example is major topic 24, which in the national database is “State and Local Government Administration” and in the Pennsylvania database is “Local Government and Governance.” The Pennsylvania database also includes important subtopic codes not found in the national database such as 1213 “Property and Real Estate Law” and 1527 “Regulation of Services.”

Each code has subcodes organized around a specific policy topic. However, two subcodes are common to each code. The 00 subcode of every policy area (i.e. 700, 2400) is designed for data of a general nature relating to the policy topic, or for data that includes combinations of multiple subtopics. The 99 subcode of every policy area (i.e. 799, 2499) is designed for data that relates to the overall policy topic of a code, but does not fit into any of the existing subcodes of that topic. For example, the issue of “retirement and lifelong learning” falls into the overall 600 education code. However, this issue does not fit into any of the subtopics, so it should be coded as 699.

For detailed information on the coding process and examples for each policy code, refer to our project manual at [http://www.temple.edu/papolicy/resources/documents/2009-10Codebook.pdf](http://www.temple.edu/papolicy/resources/documents/2009-10Codebook.pdf)
Coding Scheme

1. Fiscal and Economic Issues

100: General Fiscal and Economic Issues (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
101: Inflation, Prices, and Interest Rates
103: Unemployment Rate
104: Monetary Supply, Federal Reserve Board, Treasury, and the Pennsylvania Treasurer
105: State Operating (General Fund) Budget, State Capital Budget and Debt
107: State Taxation, State Tax policy, and Reform of State Taxes
108: Industrial Policy
110: Price Control and Stabilization
199: Other

2. Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Civil Liberties

200: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
201: Ethnic Minority and Racial Group Discrimination
202: Gender and Sexual Orientation Discrimination
204: Age Discrimination
205: Handicap or Disease Discrimination
206: Voting Rights and Issues
207: Freedom of Speech and Religion
208: Right to Privacy and Access to Government Information
209: Anti-Government Activities
210: Abortion and Alternatives to Abortion
299: Other

3. Health

300: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
301: Comprehensive Health Care Reform
302: Insurance Reform, Availability, and Cost
321: Regulation of Drug Industry, Medical Devices, and Clinical Labs
322: Facilities Construction, Regulation, and Payments
323: Provider and Insurer Payment and Regulation
324: Medical Liability, Fraud and Abuse
325: Health Manpower and Training, and Licensing Issues
331: Prevention, Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion
332: Infants and Children
333: Mental Health and Mental Retardation
334: Long-Term Care, Home Health, Terminally Ill, and Rehabilitation Services
335: Prescription Drug Coverage and Costs
336: Other or Multiple Benefits and Procedures
341: Tobacco Abuse, Treatment, and Education
342: Alcohol Abuse and Treatment
343: Controlled and Illegal Drug Abuse, Treatment, and Education
344: Drug and Alcohol or Substance Abuse Treatment
345: Provision and Regulation of Ambulance Services
398: Research and development
399: Other

4. Agriculture
400: General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics)
401: Agricultural Trade
402: Government Agricultural Subsidies, Agricultural Disaster Insurance
403: Food and Commodity Inspection and Safety
404: Agricultural Marketing, Research, and Promotion
405: Animal and Crop Disease, Pest Control and Domestic Pets
498: Agricultural Research and Development
499: Other

5. Labor, Employment, and Immigration

500: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
501: Worker Safety and Protection
502: Employment Training and Workforce Development
503: Employee Benefits
504: Employee/Employer Relations and Labor Unions
505: Fair Labor Standards
506: Youth Employment and Child Labor
508: Parental Leave and Child Care
529: Migrant and Seasonal Workers, Farm Labor Issues
530: Immigration and Refugee Issues
599: Other

6. Education

600: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
601: Higher Education (includes medical schools)
602: Elementary and Secondary Education
603: Education of Underprivileged Students
604: Vocational Education
606: Special Education
607: Educational Excellence
609: Arts and Humanities
698: Research and Development
699: Other

7. Environment

700: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
701: Water Supply and Drinking Water Safety
703: Waste Disposal
704: Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Regulation, Treatment, and Disposal
705: Air Pollution, Global Warming, and Noise Pollution
706: Coal Mine Subsidence and Reclamation
707: Recycling
708: Indoor Environmental Hazards
709: Species and Forest Protection
710: Coastal Water Pollution and Conservation
711: Land and Water Conservation
712: Regulation of Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Boating
798: Research and Development
799: Other

8. Energy

800: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
801: Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issues
802: Electricity and Hydroelectricity
803: Natural Gas and Oil
805: Coal
806: Alternative and Renewable Energy
807: Energy Conservation
898: Research and Development:
899: Other

10. Transportation

1000: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1001: Mass Transportation and Safety
1002: Highway Construction, Maintenance, and Safety
1003: Airports, Airlines, Air Traffic Control and Safety
1005: Railroad Transportation and Safety
1006: Truck and Automobile Transportation and Safety (Including Registration and Licensing)
1007: Maritime Issues
1008: Alternative Means of Transportation
1010: Public Works (Infrastructure Development)
1098: Research and Development
1099: Other

12. Law, Crime, and Family Issues

1200: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1201: Executive Branch Agencies Dealing With Law and Crime
1202: White Collar Crime and Organized Crime
1203: Illegal Drug Production, Trafficking, and Control
1204: Court Administration
1205: Prisons
1206: Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice System
1207: Child Abuse and Child Pornography
1208: Marriage and Family Issues
1209: Police, Fire, and Weapons Control
1210: Criminal Code
1211: Crime Prevention and Riots
1212: Probate and Estate Law
1213: Property and Real Estate Law
1214: State Tort Law and Tort Law Reform
1215: Notary Public
1299: Other

13. Social Welfare

1300: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1301: Food Stamps, Food Assistance, and Nutrition Monitoring Programs
1302: Poverty and Assistance for Low-Income Families
1303: Elderly Issues and Elderly Assistance Programs
1304: Assistance to the Disabled and Handicapped
1305: Social Services and Volunteer Associations
1399: Other

14. Community Development and Housing Issues

1400: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1401: Housing and Community Development
1402: Zoning and Growth Management
1403: Urban Economic Development and General Urban Issues
1404: Rural Housing and Housing Assistance Programs
1405: Rural Economic Development
1406: Low and Middle Income Housing Programs and Needs
1407: Veterans Housing Assistance and Military Housing Programs
1408: Elderly and Handicapped Housing
1409: Housing Assistance for Homeless and Homeless Issues
1410: Secondary Mortgage Market
1411: General State Economic Development
1499: Other

15. Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce

1500: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1501: State Banking System and Financial Institution Regulation
1502: Securities and Commodities Regulation
1504: Consumer Finance, Mortgages, and Credit Cards
1505: Insurance Regulation
1507: Bankruptcy
1520: Corporate Mergers, Antitrust Regulation, Corporate Management Issues and Incorporation of Businesses, Associations, and Nonprofits
1521: Small Business Issues
1522: Copyrights and Patents
1523: Domestic Disaster Preparedness and Relief
1524: Tourism
1525: Consumer Safety and Consumer Fraud
1526: Sports and Gambling Regulation
1527: Regulation of Services
1528: Regulation of Alcohol
1599: Other

16. Defense

1600: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1602: U.S. and Other Defense Alliances, U.S Security Assistance
1603: Military Intelligence, CIA, Espionage
1604: Military Readiness, Coordination of Armed Services Air Support and Sealift Capabilities, and National Stockpiles of Strategic Materials
1605: Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation
1606: Military Aid and Weapons Sales to other Countries
1608: Manpower, Military Personnel and Dependents (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines), Military Courts
1609: Veterans Issues and Veterans Administration/Affairs (VA) Issues.
1610: Military Procurement and Weapons System Acquisitions and Evaluation
1611: Military Installations, Construction, and Land Transfers
1612: National Guard and Reserve Affairs
1614: Military Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Disposal, Military Environmental Compliance
1615: Civil Defense (war related)
1616: Civilian Employment by the Defense Industry, Military Base Closings
1617: Oversight of Defense Contracts and Contractors
1619: Direct War Related Issues
1620: Relief of Claims Against U.S. Military
1698: Research and Development
1699: Other

17. Space, Science, Technology and Communications

1700: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1701: NASA, U.S. Government Use of Space, Space Exploration Agreements
1704: Commercial Use of Space, Satellites
1705: Science Technology Transfer, International Scientific Cooperation
1706: Telephone and Telecommunication Regulation
1707: Broadcast Industry Regulation (TV, Cable, Radio)
1708: Weather Forecasting and Related Issues, NOAA, Oceanography
1709: Computer Industry and Computer Security
1798: Research and Development
1799: Other

18. Foreign Trade

1800: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1802: Trade Negotiations, Disputes, and Agreements
1803: Export Promotion and Regulation, Export-Import Bank
1804: International Private Business Investments, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
1806: Productivity and Competitiveness of State Businesses
1807: Tariff and Import Restrictions, Import Regulation
1808: Exchange Rates and Related Issues
1899: Other

19. International Affairs and Foreign Aid

1900: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
1901: U.S. Foreign Aid
1902: International Resources Exploitation and Resources Agreement
1905: Developing Countries Issues (for financial issues see 1906)
1906: International Finance and Economic Development
1907: China
1908: Soviet Union and Former Republics
1909: Eastern Europe
1910: Western Europe, Common Market Issues
1911: Africa
1912: South Africa
1914: Latin America (South America, Central America, Mexico, Caribbean Basin, Cuba)
1915: Panama Canal Issues and Other International Canal Issues
1919: Asia, Pacific Rim, Australia, and Japan
1920: Middle East
1925: Human Rights
1926: International Organizations other than Finance: United Nations (UN), UNESCO, International Red Cross
1927: Terrorism, Hijacking
1999: Other

20. State Government Operations

2000: General (includes supplemental budget requests and appropriations for multiple departments and agencies)
2001: Intergovernmental Relations
2002: Government Efficiency and Bureaucratic Oversight
2003: Postal Service Issues (Including Mail Fraud)
2004: Government Employee Benefits, Civil Service Issues
2005: Nominations and Appointments
2006: Currency, Commemorative Coins, Medals, U.S. Mint
2007: Government Procurement, Procurement Fraud and Contractor Management
2008: Government Property Management
2009: Department of Revenue Administration
2010: Impeachment, Scandal and Recall
2011: State Government Branch Relations Administrative Issues, Legislative Operations
2012: Regulation of Elections, Political Campaigns, Political Advertising, Campaign Contributions, Voter Registration, Government Ethics
2013: Census
2014: District of Columbia Affairs
2015: Relief of Claims Against the State and Local Government
2016: State Lottery Operations
2017: Initiative and Referendum
2030: State Holidays and Observances
2031: State Commemorative Legislation and Resolutions
2099: Other

21. Public Lands and Water Management

2100: General (Includes Combinations of Multiple Subtopics)
2101: State Parks, Memorials, Historic Sites, and Recreation
2102: Native American Affairs
2103: Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Forest Management
2104: Water Resources Development and Research
2105: U.S. Dependencies and Territorial Issues
2199: Other

24 Local Governments and Governance

2400: General (Multiple subtopics)
2401: Counties
2402: Municipalities (Cities, townships, boroughs, and towns)
2403: Governance of Multi-Purpose Special Districts, Agencies, or Areas
2404: Local tax and revenue policies, including property tax relief (taxes, fees, etc.)
2405: State Authorizations or Restrictions on Local Government Debt
2499: Other

Adapted to Pennsylvania state government by Joseph McLaughlin, Wesley Leckrone and Jason Bossie from the national codebook written by Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones, and revised by Scott Adler and John Wilkerson. Most recently revised by Joseph McLaughlin, Jay Jennings, and Michelle Atherton on October 21, 2009.