

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

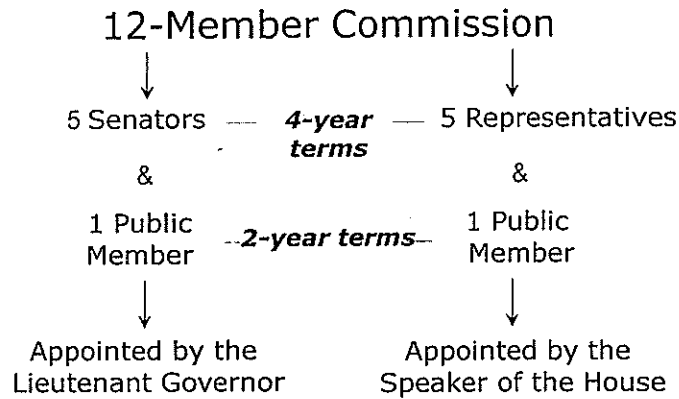
Overview of the Sunset Process in Texas
Amy Tripp, Policy Analyst



What Is Sunset?

- Created in 1977, by the Legislature.
- About 130 state agencies.
- Part of the Legislature's oversight of state government.
- Looks at statutory changes and the need for an agency's functions.
- Mission is to enhance government accountability to the Legislature and Texans.

Who Is Sunset?



Chair and Vice Chair rotate between the Senate and House each biennium.

Staff of 30 supports the Sunset Commission members.

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

Current Members

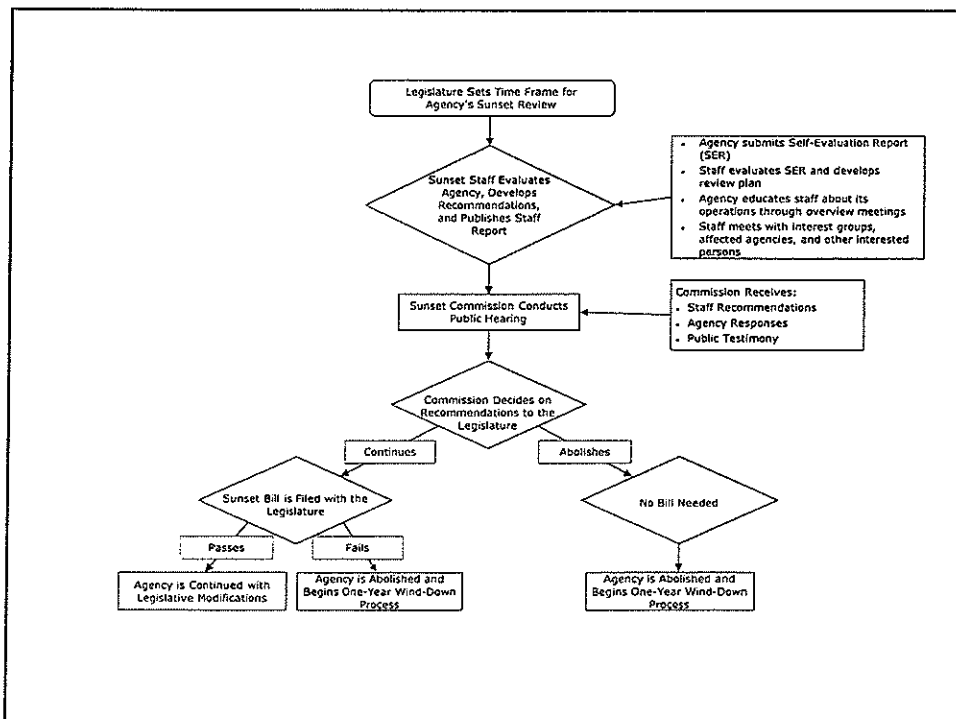
- Sen. Robert Nichols, Vice Chair
- Sen. Brian Birdwell
- Sen. Joan Huffman
- Sen. Dan Patrick
- Sen. John Whitmire
- Public Member, Appointment Pending
- Rep. Dennis Bonnen, Chair
- Rep. Rafael Anchia
- Rep. Byron Cook
- Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr.
- Rep. Four Price
- Public Member, Appointment Pending

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How Does Sunset Work?

- Each agency/every 12 years
- 20-30 agencies each review cycle
- Agency Self-Evaluation Report
- Sunset Review Criteria - Government Code
- Interest Group Involvement
- Staff Report Publication
- Public Hearing
- Decision Meeting
- The Agency's Sunset Bill

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Why Do We Need Sunset?

- Strengthens the Legislature's oversight of state government
- Increases accountability for how and why agencies spend taxpayer dollars
- Provides a structure to make government smaller and smarter
- Strengthens public participation
- Improves government effectiveness

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What Has Sunset Done?

- Abolished 78 agencies
- Generated \$945.4 million in savings over 30 years
- Saved \$29 for every dollar spent
- Increased open government & public participation
- Instituted standard "good government" policies and developed an occupational licensing model
- Legislature has approved more than 80% of all Sunset recommendations over the last five biennia
- Nationally recognized Sunset model

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Sunset This Cycle

- 24 reviews, including:
 - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Board of Pardons and Paroles
 - Windham School District
 - Correctional Managed Health Care Committee
 - Texas Education Agency
 - Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - Port of Houston Authority
- Reviews began September 2011 and end December 2012
- 83rd legislative session begins January 2013

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Who Do I Contact?

- Visit Sunset on the Web: www.sunset.state.tx.us
- Call Sunset staff at 512.463.1300
- E-mail staff at sunset@sunset.state.tx.us
- Fax staff at 512.463.0705
- Contact Project Manager of a specific review
- Contact Sunset Commission members and their staffs

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