



Summary of Sunset Recommendations

Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Texas

1. Update TABC's mission and strategic planning process to better reflect today's alcoholic beverage regulatory environment.
2. Improve TABC's management of its enforcement activities to best protect the public's safety.
3. Reduce regulation of certain business practices that serve no consumer interest, impose costs and delays on the industry, and create excessive burdens for the agency.
4. Require TABC to develop a formal process for making and communicating policy decisions regarding marketing practices regulations.
5. Require the agency to create a more formal and consistent approach to investigating and resolving complaints against its employees.
6. Ensure licensees have access to online license application, renewal, and fee payment.
7. Require establishments that serve alcohol to post signs warning the public of the risks of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.
8. Expand TABC's authority to take enforcement action against establishments that sell or serve alcohol during prohibited hours.
9. Continue TABC for 12 years.

Animal Health Commission, Texas

1. Clarify the Commission's role in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made emergencies, including a study of the State's capacity to perform disease testing during emergencies.
2. Clarify the Commission's authority to address diseases in other species that threaten livestock and fowl.
3. Clarify the Commission's authority to register feral swine holding facilities and regulate movement of feral swine for disease-control purposes.
4. Establish an agencywide compliance policy and improve public information regarding its compliance process.
5. Develop and implement a succession plan.
6. Continue the Commission for 12 years.

Arts, Texas Commission on the

1. Continue the Texas Commission on the Arts for two years, and require a follow-up Sunset review focused on how the agency spends its funds, particularly its expenditures on administration and overhead.
2. Require the Commission to adopt rules to govern the acceptance of private funds to ensure that the use of the funds supports the agency's key functions.
3. Require the Commission to adopt rules to ensure accountability of TCA's special initiative grants.
4. Request that the Legislature, through the appropriations process, authorize TCA to expend the annual interest income earned on the Cultural Endowment Fund for grants only.

Criminal Justice Agencies

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Correctional Managed Health Care Committee

1. Request that the Legislature appropriate significant additional funds to TDCJ for offender treatment and rehabilitation programs proven to reduce recidivism.
2. Establish a Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee to provide objective research, analysis, and recommendations to help guide state criminal justice policies.
3. Require the Board of Pardons and Paroles to annually review and update its parole guidelines, and report and explain to the Legislature its efforts to meet them.
4. Require CSCDs to identify and recommend probationers appropriate for early termination, and encourage TDCJ and the Legislature to adjust funding methods to minimize the loss of funds to CSCDs resulting from these early terminations.
5. Require TDCJ's Parole Division to identify eligible, low-risk offenders, and establish a process for releasing these offenders early from parole and mandatory supervision.
6. Authorize judges to permit the early medical release of state jail confinees who pose no risk to public safety due to their medical conditions.
7. Expand conflict of interest provisions and previous employment restrictions for Parole Board members to apply to parole commissioners.
8. Require the Board of Pardons and Paroles to allow the nearest relative by consanguinity to represent a deceased victim in the parole review process.
9. Require TDCJ to identify and provide information and interventions to women offenders at risk of having an alcohol-exposed pregnancy.
10. Require TDCJ to study the option of using electronic GPS tracking and monitoring devices for people on parole, and report the findings to the Legislature.

11. Continue TDCJ for 12 years.
12. Require the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee to make information about offender health care readily available to the public and offenders.
13. Allow the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee to continue, but update its statutory direction and remove its separate Sunset date.

Higher Education Tuition Board, Prepaid

1. Facilitate the Board's ability to reopen the Prepaid Plan through changes in law that enable better pricing of contracts given a tuition deregulated environment.
2. Direct the Board to consider changes to encourage greater interest in managing the Savings Plan and to regularly evaluate the cost-effectiveness of its advertising.
3. Require in law an ethics policy for Board members and staff to help ensure against any potential conflicts of interest.
4. Require the Board to study how it could leverage prepaid tuition contracts to secure benefits for Prepaid Plan beneficiaries from Texas universities.
5. Continue the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, housed at the Comptroller's Office, for the standard 12-year period.

Historical Commission, Texas

1. Require the Texas Historical Commission to adopt rules governing the relationship between the agency and its associated nonprofit corporation.
2. Require THC to create a statewide strategy for awarding historical markers.
3. Continue THC for 12 years, and direct the agency to evaluate and prioritize its many programs.

Library and Archives Commission, Texas State

1. Continue the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for 12 years.
2. Restructure regional library systems' funding to provide flexibility to meet changing conditions and encourage innovation.
3. Eliminate state certification of county librarians.
4. Authorize TSLAC in law to provide direction and leadership to collaborative efforts to develop online access to historical resources.
5. Require TSLAC and the Texas Education Agency to develop a joint study of school library needs, and to assess which needs each agency should address.

Nurse Examiners, Board of

1. Streamline the Nurse Board's process for approving nursing education programs to remove unnecessary complexity, eliminate duplication, and accommodate changes in the delivery of nursing education.
2. Encourage an innovative approach by the Board for dealing with the nursing shortage.
3. Require the Board to clarify how it will use criminal history and arrest information in licensing and disciplining nurses.
4. Change the way the Board uses advisory committees to ensure objective, independent advice on Board functions and policies.
5. Adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Multistate Compact to make it easier for these nurses to come to Texas.
6. Improve the Board's ability to deal with impaired nurses who commit practice violations.
7. Strengthen the Board's oversight of targeted continuing education to make the requirements workable for the Board and beneficial for the nurse.
8. Conform key elements of the Board's licensing and enforcement functions to commonly applied licensing practices.
9. Continue the Board of Nurse Examiners for 10 years.

Real Estate Commission, Texas

1. Increase TREC's focus on consumer protection, and provide the agency additional enforcement tools.
2. Improve TREC's ability to quickly resolve complaints, and transfer its hearings to SOAH.
3. Improve regulation of private real estate schools to ensure students get a quality education.
4. Conform key elements of the Commission's licensing and regulatory functions to commonly applied licensing practices.
5. Continue the Texas Real Estate Commission for 12 years, and better integrate regulation of home inspectors and appraisers into the agency's structure.

Risk Management, State Office of

1. Require SORM to facilitate the return to work of injured employees by expanding its case management program and reporting the lost time and return to work outcomes of state agencies.
2. Require SORM to study how the State could structure its workers' compensation program to be prepared for claims resulting from a disaster and to report options to the Legislature.
3. Require SORM to pay most indemnity benefits by direct deposit.

4. Require state agencies to develop business continuity plans with SORM's consultation and evaluation.
5. Require SORM, the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, and the State Fire Marshal's Office to exchange safety information.
6. Continue the State Office of Risk Management for 12 years.

Rural Community Affairs, Office of

1. Continue ORCA for four years, with new leadership and refocused to better serve rural Texas.

State-Federal Relations, Office of

1. Abolish the Office of State-Federal Relations and restructure it within the Office of the Governor with clear legislative consultation; and if the Office chooses to contract with consultants, require it to adhere to clear guidelines.
2. Require state agencies and political subdivisions of the State of Texas to report contracts with federal-level government relations consultants to the Office.
3. Require the Office to track performance indicators, as determined by the Office of the Governor in consultation with legislative leadership, and include the information in its annual policy priority document.

Structural Pest Control Board, Texas

1. Abolish the Structural Pest Control Board and transfer its functions to the Texas Department of Agriculture.
2. Allow the agency to determine its inspection frequency based on an assessment of risk.
3. Require the agency to develop a formal process for exam development and revision.
4. Improve the Integrated Pest Management Program to provide more clear and consistent guidance to schools.
5. Conform key elements of the agency's licensing and regulatory functions to commonly applied licensing practices.
6. Allow beekeepers to remove bees from structures without a pest control license, as long as they do not use pesticides.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas

1. Require TRS to provide equal access to retirement counseling services across the state.
2. Restructure TRS' disability retirement benefit program to ensure protection of Pension Trust Fund assets.

3. Grant TRS a greater range of oversight tools to adequately protect investments made by public education employees in 403(b) products.
4. Repeal the statutory requirement for TRS to conduct the Public School Employees' Health Coverage Comparability Study.

Veterans Commission, Texas

1. Continue the Texas Veterans Commission for four years and allow the Commission additional time to assume its new programs.
2. Improve the Commission's rulemaking process, enabling the Commission to respond to changes in its mission and the veterans it serves.
3. Provide the Commission with management tools needed to ensure the highest quality claims counseling and representation services for Texas' veterans.
4. Strengthen the Commission's relationship with county service officers to more effectively reach veterans at the local level.
5. Require the Commission to develop and implement a succession plan in anticipation of changes in the agency's workforce.
6. Require the Texas Veterans Commission and the Veterans' Land Board to coordinate a statewide approach to making Texas veterans aware of available benefits and services.

Veterans' Land Board

1. Require the Veterans' Land Board and the Texas Veterans Commission to coordinate a statewide approach to making Texas veterans aware of available benefits and services.
2. Require the Veterans' Land Board to obtain and approve relevant audit plans and publicly discuss internal audit reports.

Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas

1. Continue TVMDL for 12 years.
2. Clarify TVMDL's powers and duties in statute, and require the agency to provide notice and opportunity for public comment when developing its fee schedule.