

*Correctional Managed Health Care
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Overview*

Presented by:

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What does “Sunset” mean?

- In government, “Sunset” reviews regularly assess the need for a state agency or program to exist. In Texas, the Sunset process works by setting an expiration (Sunset) date in law for state agencies. An agency will automatically be abolished on its Sunset date unless the Legislature passes a bill to continue it, typically for another 12 years. A rigorous evaluation process before the Sunset date provides the Legislature a unique opportunity and a strong incentive to closely examine an agency’s mission, priorities, and performance and take action to address problems identified.



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Sunset in Texas:

- The Sunset Commission begins a new review cycle every two years in the fall in odd-numbered years. Sunset posts a list of agencies under review on its website, along with the required self-evaluation reports (SER) submitted by each agency in the current review cycle. In the SER, agencies describe their mission, functions, and programs, provide operational and performance data, and identify potential issues and opportunities for change through the Sunset process.
- Through Sunset, the Legislature looks closely at the need for and performance of state agencies. About 130 entities are subject to Sunset review, with 20-30 going through the Sunset process every two year.



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The Process (How Sunset Works):

Sunset shines a light on state agencies and programs to see if they are still relevant in a changing world. If the answer is yes, Sunset recommends improvements to make them more effective and efficient. If the answer is no, Sunset recommends abolishing the agency or transferring its functions to another agency with related functions.

1. Sunset Staff Evaluation

Sunset staff performs extensive research and analysis to evaluate the need for, performance of, and improvements to the agency under review.

2. Sunset Commission Deliberation

The Sunset Commission conducts a public hearing to take testimony on the staff report and the agency overall. The Sunset Commission conducts a second meeting to vote on which changes to recommended to the Texas Legislature.

3. Legislative Action

The Texas Legislature considers Sunset's recommendations and makes final decisions.

Agency continues with improvements

or

Sunset Commission Staff (Public input is confidential)

- *Receives agency's self-evaluation report
- *Receives input from interested parties
- *Evaluates agency and identifies problems
- *Develops recommendations
- *Publishes staff report

Public Hearings (Public input is published on the website)

- *Sunset staff presents its report and recommendations
- *Agency presents its response
- *Sunset Commission hears public testimony and receives written comments
- *Sunset Commission meets again to consider and vote on recommendations

Texas Legislature (Public may participate in legislative process)

- *Sunset bill on an agency is drafted and filled
- *Sunset bills go through normal legislative process
- *The Senate and the House conduct committee hearings and debate the bill
- *Bill passes or fails adoption
- *Governor signs, vetoes, or allows bill to become law without signature

Agency is abolished but may continue business for up to one year, or its functions are transferred to another agency.



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The People:

The Commission has five senators, five representatives, and two members of the public, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. The Sunset staff is composed of evaluation and administrative professionals that support the Commission by performing agency reviews and assisting in the legislative process.



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Rep. Justin Holland, District 33, Chairman

- Chairman Holland is a graduate of Texas Tech University and earned his Master of Science degree in Management from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2008.
- In the community, Chairman Holland has served as the State Representative for Texas House District 33 since 2017. Prior to the Texas Legislature, he was a Councilman in the City of Heath, Texas from 2011-2016. He is currently the House Chair of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission with a term expiring in 2025.



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Sunset Commission Members:

Senate Members

Angela Paxton

Charles Schwertner, M.D.,

Drew Springer, Jr.

To be appointed

To be appointed

To be appointed, Public Member

House Members

Justin Holland, Chair

Keith Bell

Terry Canales

Travis Clardy

Matt Shaheen

Jeff Austin, III, Public Member



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TDCJ review process:

The Texas Sunset Act requires the Sunset Commission to periodically review the TDCJ and recommend whether to continue the agency and change state law to improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness. The Legislature ultimately will decide whether to continue the TDCJ and adopt Sunset's other statutory recommendations. The Sunset Commission also may adopt management directives for the TDCJ that do not require statutory change.



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