

SUBJECT: Sunset dates for certain state agencies

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, with amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Wolens, Carter, Counts, Craddick, Danburg, Hilbert, Hunter, Longoria, McCall, Ramsay, Stiles

0 nays

4 absent — S. Turner, Alvarado, Brimer, D. Jones

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 22 — voice vote

WITNESSES: (*On House companion, HB 1887*)
For — Tom Smith, Public Citizen

Against — None

BACKGROUND : Periodically, the Legislature alters the schedule of agencies subject to review by the Sunset Advisory Commission in order to balance the commission's workload. September 1 is the day normally specified as the sunset date.

DIGEST: SB 360, as amended, would change from 1999 to 2003 the sunset dates for the following state entities: Texas Veterans Commission, Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness, Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities, Texas Workforce Commission, and the workforce development legislative oversight committee.

The Veterans' Land Board, which is subject to sunset review but may not be abolished, also would be reviewed in 2003 rather than 1999.

Other changes would change sunset dates for the Texas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies (from 2003 to 1999); Coastal Coordination Council (from 1999 to 2001); the board of directors of the cotton growers' boll weevil eradication foundation (from 2004 to 2003);

General Services Commission (from 2001 to 2003); Equine Research Account Advisory Committee (from 2001 to 2005); Center for Rural Health Initiatives (from 1999 to 2005); and Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (from 2006 to 2005).

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) would be brought under the sunset review process, with reviews starting in the year 2003 and repeating every 12 years thereafter. SOAH would not be subject to being abolished.

The Texas Housing Corporation also would be subject to sunset review and would be abolished unless continued by 2003.

SB 360 also would repeal Government Code sec. 317.012, which requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to review the state budget execution.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1997.

NOTES:

The committee amendment would bring the Texas Housing Corporation under sunset review.