

SUBJECT: Changing the sunset date for various state agencies

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, with amendments

VOTE: 12 ayes — Wolens, S. Turner, Alvarado, Bailey, Brimer, Counts, Craddick, Hilbert, Hunter, Longoria, Marchant, McCall

0 nays

3 absent — Danburg, D. Jones, Merritt

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: The Texas Sunset Act requires the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Legislature to evaluate state agencies periodically by providing for their abolition on specific dates. Most agencies are scheduled for review once every 12 years. About 200 agencies and advisory commissions are subject to the provisions of the act, and about 20 to 30 agencies go through the sunset process each legislative session. A state agency is subject to the act if a date for its review or abolishment is set by statute.

Occasionally the Legislature needs to alter the review timetable to bring agencies under review, as needed, to address special problems or concerns, or to adjust the Sunset Advisory Commission's workload.

DIGEST: HB 2954, as amended, would change the following agencies' statutory sunset dates:

- ! for the Texas Israel Exchange Fund Board and the Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission, from September 1, 2001, to September 1, 2007;
- ! for the Official Cotton Growers' Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, from September 1, 2003, to September 1, 2007; and
- ! for the State Committee of Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments and the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, from September 1, 2005, to September 1, 2001.

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The bill would delete the sunset provision for the State Law Library.

HB 2954 would take effect September 1, 1999.

NOTES:

Committee amendments added the provisions that would change the sunset dates for the Official Cotton Grower's Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, the State Committee of Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments, and the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.