

- SUBJECT:** Changing Sunset date for various state entities
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Smithee
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jamaal Smith, City of Houston, Office of the Mayor Sylvester Turner; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Jones, Sunset Advisory Commission; Thomas Parkinson)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code ch. 325 requires the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Legislature to evaluate certain state agencies periodically to determine whether a public need exists for their continuation or their functions. A state agency is subject to the act if a date is set in statute for it to be reviewed or abolished.
- DIGEST:** HB 1600 would change the following entities' statutory Sunset dates from September 1, 2021, to September 1, 2023:
- Texas Department of Agriculture;
 - Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's board of directors;
 - Texas Animal Health Commission;
 - Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board;
 - Credit Union Department and the Credit Union Commission;
 - Texas Commission on Fire Protection;

- Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission;
- Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office;
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards;
- Office of State-Federal Relations;
- Teacher Retirement System's board of trustees;
- Anatomical Board of the State of Texas;
- Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation;
- State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners;
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement;
- Racing Commission;
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and
- Brazos River Authority.

If a conflict existed between this bill and another bill of this regular legislative session that extended the Sunset date of a governmental entity, the provisions of the other bill would prevail.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1600 is the biennial Sunset safety net bill. It would continue 18 entities that underwent review by the Sunset Advisory Commission during the 2020-2021 review cycle until 2023. The bill could be used later in the session as a vehicle to avoid inadvertently terminating those entities if individual bills for their continuation failed to be enacted for other reasons. Any provision of the bill would be overridden if subsequent Sunset legislation was enacted for a particular entity, ensuring the Legislature retained its authority to decide whether an individual entity should be continued or abolished.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill could result in

additional costs to the Sunset Advisory Commission and the state, as the commission would conduct these reviews in addition to those already scheduled for the 2022-2023 review cycle.