

Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? **The Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) schedules four meetings per year, even though statute only requires annual meetings. Occasionally, the scheduled meetings are cancelled due to lack of agenda items.** Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. **The LCSAC has met seven times in the past two years.** Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found. **Meeting minutes, position statements and other formal documents generated by the LCSAC, and meeting agendas can be accessed at this link:**
https://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/animal_welfare/lcsac
2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive. **LCSAC members do not receive a per diem for their time or travel. Included with this submission is a spreadsheet containing all past (red font) and present (green font) members, appointing authorities, roles on the LCSAC and term information.**
3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.
The LSAC, comprised of 14 members and Chaired by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, is tasked with advising the Secretary of Agriculture and the legislative committees on agriculture on issues relating to livestock well-being in the state of Vermont. The Council is also authorized to engage in educational and outreach initiatives meant to improve the welfare of Vermont's livestock animals.
4. Is that purpose still needed? **Yes** What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose? **Because this Council brings together a variety of subject matter experts from different fields, it allows for a "one stop shop" type of communication flow. If the LCSAC did not exist, the Legislature's committees of jurisdiction and the Secretary of Agriculture would have to potentially acquire information they need for decision making from up to 14 different individuals or organizations, which would be less efficient and more costly.**

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? **Very well**
What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance? **Since the inception in its current form, the LCSAC has provided formal feedback to the Vermont Legislature through the development of position statements on five different topics. Council members have provided separate testimony on additional topics in the House and Senate Ag committees. The Council engaged in fundraising and produced bilingual educational materials regarding humane transport of livestock in response to an unmet need in Vermont. Although statute mandates annual meetings, Council members have unanimously agreed that the workload is enough to meet three-four times per year and have done so consistently. Materials produced by the LCSAC can be viewed at:
https://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/animal_welfare/lcsac .**
6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner? **No, as per the answer to Q4 above.**
7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? **No, currently there is no other board, commission or state agency that has this same responsibility. Given that traditional county extension agents no longer exist through UVM Extension, there is even a greater void in the population of subject matter experts to weigh in on these issues.** If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose? **Yes**
8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission? **Yes**
9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. **There were no expenditures during this time.** How are these funded? **N/A**
10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? **Yes, the LCSAC is required to submit an "annual report" to the Legislature and Secretary in January consisting of the meeting minutes from the prior calendar year.** If so, have those reports or studies been produced? **Yes** Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations? **Yes, for the annual report as previously described.**