

**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? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years.

Northeastern Interstate Compact for Dairy Pricing Commission

The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact (6 New England States) was not renewed by Congress in 2001. The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Commission and the Vermont State Delegation to the Commission have not met since 2001.

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.

The last members of the State Delegation were Millicent Rooney, Harold Howrigan, Senator Bobby Starr, Andy Dykstra, Jacques Couture, Secretary of Agriculture Leon Graves,

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

The purpose of this Statute is to recognize by constitutional prerequisite the interstate character of the northeast dairy industry and to form an Interstate Commission for the northeast region. The mission of the Commission is to take such steps as are necessary to assure the continued viability of dairy farming in the northeast, and to assure consumers of an adequate, local supply of pure and wholesome milk.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

The dairy industry still struggles with pricing and volatility. There are many in the industry that would like to renew the Compact but understand that such a compact would need congressional approval.

Because of this interest and concern, I would recommend not abolishing this commission.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The commission has not met since 2001. The performance of this commission was the formation and passage by congress an interstate dairy compact that provided millions of additional dollars to VT dairy farmers from the New England Marketplace.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

There is no other entity or statute that could implement an interstate compact on dairy. The purpose of this legislation is still needed.

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? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

No duplication in any other board or commission.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

The enabling statute is still relevant today and correctly reflects the purpose and activities of the board.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

The Northeast Interstate Compact Commission was funded by an assessment paid by dairy processors of fluid milk in the New England region. The Commission has not met since 2001.

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? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

The Commission shall file an annual report with the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, and with each of the participating states by submitting copies to the governor, both houses of the legislature, and the head of the state department having responsibilities for agriculture. No reports has been submitted since 2001.