

**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.

Vt Agricultural Commodity Marketing Boards

The Statute allows the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to form a marketing board by request of VT Agricultural Commodity producers by petition or on his or her own accord.

At this time there are no Agricultural Marketing Boards managed by the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In 2017, the VT Maple Sugar Makers requested information on forming a marketing board for maple syrup. At this time, there has been no petition to the Secretary for the formation of a maple marketing board.

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.

No active marketing board exists at this time.

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

Ability of commodity groups to form marketing boards to grow and enhance markets for agricultural products.

It is hereby declared that the inability of individual producers to develop new and larger markets for agricultural commodities results in an unreasonable and unnecessary economic waste of the agricultural wealth of this State. These conditions and the accompanying waste jeopardize the future continued production of adequate food supplies for the people of this and other states.

These conditions vitally concern the health, safety, and general welfare of the people in this State. It is therefore declared the legislative purpose and the policy of this State:

(1) to enable agricultural producers of this State, with the aid of the State, to more effectively correlate the marketing of their agricultural commodities with market demands;

(2) to establish orderly, efficient, and equitable marketing of agricultural commodities;

(3) to provide methods and means for the development of new and larger markets for agricultural commodities produced in Vermont;

(4) to eliminate or reduce the economic waste in the marketing of agricultural commodities; and

(5) to eliminate unjust impairment of the purchasing power of the agricultural producers of this State. (Added 1983, No. 250 (Adj. Sess.); amended 1993, No. 73, § 1, eff. June 10, 1993.)

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

Since the maple sugar makers requested information on formation of a marketing board in 2017, the ability to form such boards is still relevant. The ability to form these boards should remain in statute.

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

There is not an active board at this time. In the past boards have been active and productive.

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

State government marketing initiatives are usually board and generic. A Agricultural commodity marketing board could be specific to a type of product such as apples, syrup, vegetables etc. There are no other entities in State government that are similar to marketing boards governed and funded by producers.

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?

There were no expenditures in the last fiscal year surrounding marketing boards.

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?

There are no reporting requirements in statute.