

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of Law Enforcement Advisory Board

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. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.
 - The Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) shall meet no fewer than six times a year to develop policies and recommendations for law enforcement priority needs, including retirement benefits, recruitment of officers, training needs, homeland security issues, dispatching, and comprehensive drug enforcement.
 - LEAB has met 6 times over the course of the past two fiscal years.
 - Agendas and minutes can be located at the following link:
 - <https://dps.vermont.gov/committees-boards/leab/meetings>
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.
 - Member information can be located at the following link:
 - <https://dps.vermont.gov/committees-boards/leab/members>
 - Board members do not receive compensation
3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.
 - In 2004, the Vermont General Assembly created a Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) of the Department of Public Safety with authorizing language contained in T.24 V.S.A. § 1939. The purpose of the Board is to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities. Membership of the board is set by statute. Each year the board identifies issues that are of

importance to the law enforcement community, takes testimony on these matters and offers recommendations to advance the issues. Often the Vermont legislature will provide the law enforcement advisory board with issues that require study. The board then takes testimony and prepares written reports in support of the work that is accomplished. The board uses a collaborative approach in its work, creating working groups from a variety of interested persons, organizations and/or subject matter experts.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?
 - Yes, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board is a necessary entity mandated by State statute.
 - Absent the Law Enforcement Advisory Board we would be unable to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities. Membership of the board is set by statute. Each year the board identifies issues that are of importance to the law enforcement community, takes testimony on these matters and offers recommendations to advance the issues. Often the Vermont legislature will provide the law enforcement advisory board with issues that require study. The board then takes testimony and prepares written reports in support of the work that is accomplished. The board uses a collaborative approach in its work, creating working groups from a variety of interested persons, organizations and/or subject matter experts.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?
 - Extremely well. The Law Enforcement Advisory Board provides the necessary information to ensure cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities. Each year the board identifies issues that are of importance to the law enforcement community, takes testimony on these matters and offers recommendation to advance the issues.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?
 - LEAB has historically been extremely effective in carrying out its purpose. The oversight and the collaboration it provides is necessary and if a change was contemplated, it would need to be brought about by legislative means. Any replacement would likely mirror or be so closely related to the current strategy that it would be nonsensical to undertake.

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, LEAB's functions do not overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency.
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. How are these funded?
 - LEAB does not have any expenditures
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 Board shall present its findings and recommendations in brief summary to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary annually by January 15.
 - The Board shall examine how individuals make complaints to law enforcement and suggest, on or before December 15, 2012
 - The annual reports are available through the following link as well as on the Vermont legislative website:
 - <https://dps.vermont.gov/committees-boards/leab>
11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?