

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of State Police Advisory Commission

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 State Police Advisory Commission (SPAC) typically meets every other month either in person or through Microsoft Teams.
 - SPAC has met 10 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/spac/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/spac/board>
 - Members of the Commission shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 1010. (Added 1979, No. 156 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 1995, No. 178 (Adj. Sess.), § 87b; 1999, No. 142 (Adj. Sess.), § 4; 2017, No. 56, § 4.) (*Title 20 VSA, Section 1922f*)

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.
 - 20 V.S.A. § 1922. Creation of commission; members; duties
 - (a) There is hereby created the state police advisory commission, which shall provide advice and counsel to the commissioner in carrying out his

responsibilities for the management, supervision and control of the Vermont state police.

(b) The commission shall consist of seven members, at least one of whom shall be an attorney and one of whom shall be a retired state police officer, to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

(c) Members of the commission shall serve for terms of four years, at the pleasure of the governor. Of the initial appointments, one shall be appointed for a term of one year, two for terms of two years, two for terms of three years, and two for terms of four years. Appointments to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired portion of the term vacated. The chairman shall be appointed by the governor.

(d) The creation and existence of the commission shall not relieve the commissioner of his duties under the law to manage, supervise and control the state police.

(e) To ensure that state police officers are subject to fair and known practices, the commission shall advise the commissioner with respect to and review rules concerning promotion, grievances, transfers, internal investigations and discipline.

(f) Members of the commission shall be paid per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses in accordance with section 1010 of Title 32.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?
 - Yes, the State Police Advisory Commission is a necessary entity mandated by State statute.
 - Absent the State Police Advisory Commission, the Commissioner of Public Safety would be left without the necessary checks and balances mandated by law.
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 State Police Advisory Commission provides the necessary checks and balances on behalf of the citizens of Vermont with respect to some of the duties entrusted to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Much of what SPAC does is confidential and empirical “evidence” of the performance of their duties (that which is discussed in executive session) is not able to be disclosed. However, SPAC members provide honest, intelligent, and articulate feedback to the Commissioner of Public Safety on all matters brought before them.
6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

- SPAC has historically been extremely effective in carrying out its purpose. The oversight 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, SPAC'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?
- Commissioner members are entitled to the following: 50.00 stipend, mileage, and in state lunch (6.00). However, very few members submit for these expenditures therefore the cost is very minimal to the state.
 - These expenditures are covered through General Funds
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?
- SPAC is not required to prepare any reports or studies, nor does it have any ongoing reporting obligations.
11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?