

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of Equipment Distribution Program Advisory Council

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 advisory council meets as a sub-committee of the Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council, which meets a maximum of six times per year. In practice, the board meets two to four times per year. Minutes and agendas are part of the TRS Advisory Council's minutes and agendas. A website is under construction.

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 Council is not established by State law and members are not appointed. The Council is an extension of the TRS advisory Board and includes the same members. The Equipment Advisory Council meets at the same time as the TRS Council.

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

This group serves as an advisory council on the equipment distribution program that supplies communications equipment to income-eligible residents in need of assistive or adaptive communications technology.

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

The TRS Advisory Council could serve the same purpose.

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

The board has performed adequately.

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

The functions of this council could be folded into the TRS Advisory Council.

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?

The Vermont Equipment Distribution Program, also funded by VUSF, is a sub-committee whose issues are addressed as an agenda topic at meetings of the TRS Advisory Council.

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

This advisory council does not have its own enabling legislation. It functions as a sub-committee of the TRS Advisory Council

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

No discrete costs are attributed to this advisory council. Costs are reflected in worksheet for the TRS Advisory Council.

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?

This board is not required to prepare any reports or studies.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

The board has performed adequately.