

**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? **On average, quarterly.** Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. **The Panel was created by Act 9, during the 2019 Legislative Special Session. Since then the Panel has formerly met 6 times (2 times were to interview candidates for the position of Executive Director of Racial Equity), with the convening meeting of the Panel held on Nov. 16, 2018.** Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found. Agendas and Minutes can be viewed on the Panel's webpage: <https://governor.vermont.gov/boards-commissions>; <https://racialequity.vermont.gov/>
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. Panel Members:
  - **Andrea Brett, Chair, appointed by Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson-3 yr term/exp. Jan. 1, 2022**
  - **Clarence Davis, appointed by Governor Phil Scott-2 yr term/exp. Jan. 1, 2021**
  - **Karen Richards, Esq., appointed by the Human Rights Commission-1 yr term/exp. Jan. 1, 2020**
  - **Stephanie Seguino, PhD, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees-4 yr term/exp. Jan. 1, 2023**
  - **Superior Judge Nancy Waples appointed by Chief Justice Paul L. Reiber-5 yr term/exp. Jan. 1, 2024**
- a. Per Act 9: **The term of each member shall be three years**, except, so that the term of one regular member expires in each ensuing year of the members first appointed, one shall serve a term of: one year, to be appointed by the Human Rights Commission; two years, to be appointed by the Governor; three years, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; four years, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and five years, to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As terms of currently serving members expire, appointments of successors shall be in accord with the provisions of this subsection. Appointments of members to fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the initial appointment to the vacated or expired term. **Members shall serve until their successors are elected or appointed.** Members shall serve not more than three consecutive terms in any capacity. **Terms of members shall officially begin on January 1, 2019.**

- b.** Panel members are eligible to receive per diem in the amount of \$50.00/day for meetings. They are also eligible to receive reimbursement for travel expenses, as necessary to get to meetings. Most meetings are held in the Burlington area to minimize expenditures. Expenditures to date = \$1,197.13 which averages ~\$40/person thus far and includes Exec. Dir. advertising cost. (**see attached worksheet**)
3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.
- work with the Executive Director of Racial Equity to implement the reforms identified as necessary in the comprehensive organizational review as required by subsection 5003(a) of Act 9
  - advise the Executive Director to ensure ongoing compliance with the purpose of the Act, and advise the Governor on strategies for remediating systemic racial disparities in statewide systems of government;
  - on or before January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations on:
    - the extent to which the State is achieving the performance targets and measures as developed pursuant to section 5003(c) of Act 9
    - the nature and quality of the collaboration between the Governor's Cabinet and the Executive Director.
4. Is that purpose still needed? **Yes.** What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose? **The Panel's first duty to vet Executive Director of Racial Equity candidates for the Governor's consideration has been accomplished. Our role as advisory panel to the Executive Director is just beginning. The Exec. Dir. started in her position two days ago, on Monday, July 29).**
5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? **Very well. See above.** What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?
- I, as Chair of the Advisory Panel, testified before the Senate Committee on Government Operations on January 17, 2019.
  - On or before January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Panel will report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations
  - We will be meeting with Executive Director Xusana Davis on Aug. 22 to discuss the collaborative mission of improving racial equity in state government.
  - The Executive Director of Racial Equity will periodically report to the Racial Equity Advisory Panel on the progress towards carrying out the duties as written in statute and submit annual reports to the General Assembly.
6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner? **We will continue to evaluate this, as the work of the Panel and Executive Director proceeds.**

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? **Not to our knowledge.** If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?
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. **\$1197.13 to date. (See attached expense sheet).** How are these funded? **AOA budget unit fund.**
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? **On or before January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Panel will report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations.**

**The Executive Director of Racial Equity will periodically report to the Racial Equity Advisory Panel on the progress towards carrying out the duties as written in statute and submit annual reports to the General Assembly.**

11. Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations? **See above.**
12. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

**The panel has done an excellent job thus far at what we have been tasked to do. The panel put forth four well qualified candidates to the Governor for his consideration.**

**The panel has taken, and continues to take, our responsibility seriously and our biggest responsibility has been completed in the new hire of the Executive Director.**

**Lastly, the panel looks forward to accomplishing the rest of our mission in our advisory capacity, as dictated by statute, to support the Executive Director of Racial Equity for the State of VT. The panel members offer diverse backgrounds and experiences for which to achieve these goals.**