

Sunset Advisory Commission 2022 Board and Commission Questionnaire

The Sunset Advisory 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.

Please answer the following questions about the specific board or commission under review. If asked to testify before the Sunset Advisory Commission, please plan to provide concise recommendations regarding the continued operation of the board or commission under review and any revisions to its powers, duties, or membership.

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 Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group (Working Group) is required to meet at least twice annually. Because the Commissioner of Health is the Chair of this Working Group, the Working Group has not met since prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The last meeting was held on September 9, 2019. Minutes can be found on the Health Department's website via [this link](#).

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.

All appointments are made by the Governor in consultation with the Commissioner of Health.

- Ira Bernstein; 3-year term; expired 3/31/19
- Paul Burns; 3-year term; expired 3/31/2019
- Andy Hackman; 3-year term; expired 3/31/2019
- Martin Wolf; 3-year term; expired 2019
- Phillip Landrigan; 2-year term; expired 9/30/2018
- Ruma Kohli; 2-year term; expired 3/31/2018
- John Beling; ex-officio
- Sarah Vose; ex-officio
- David Englander; Commissioner's designee

There have been no expenditures.

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

The Working Group's purpose is to: (1) review proposed chemicals for listing as a chemical of high concern to children under 18 V.S.A. § 1773 and (2) recommend to the Commissioner

of Health whether rules should be adopted under 18 V.S.A. § 1776 to regulate the sale or distribution of a children's product containing a chemical of high concern to children.

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

If the Working Group no longer fulfilled this purpose, the Commissioner would lack the consensus-derived recommendations from a diverse stakeholder group which help inform decisions regarding the listing of chemicals of high concern to children. The Commissioner would, however, maintain the ability to seek recommendations from stakeholders and technical experts, such as the State Toxicologist.

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

While the Working Group was actively meeting, it was executing that purpose. The majority of Working Group members have been active participants in meetings, offering comments and discussion on the listing of chemicals and on rulemaking proposals.

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 group's work consists primarily of biannual meetings, which represent a reasonably effective and efficient way to develop recommendations for the Commissioner's consideration.

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 Department is not aware of other federal and state bodies that review and recommend for listing chemicals of high concern to children.

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?

There were no expenditures in the last fiscal year, as the Working Group did not meet in the period.

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 Working Group is not required by law to prepare any reports or studies to the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer. The Working Group is required to provide recommendations to the Commissioner of Health, which it has done except during the Covid-19 pandemic when the Group did not meet.