

**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 Immunizations Advisory Council is required to meet at least once annually. The Council did not meet in 2021 due to the COVID-19 response. In 2022, the Council re-convened. Meeting minutes and agendas can be found [here](#).

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.

(1) Chair; Secretary Daniel French, Agency of Education;

(2) a representative of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, appointed by the Governor; Christine Payne, MD; 3-year term; expired 3/31/2019

(3) the Secretaries of Human Services and of Education or their designees;
Wendy Trafton, Deputy Director Health Care Reform, AHS
Secretary Daniel French, Agency of Education

(4) the State epidemiologist; ex-officio
Patsy Kelso

(5) a practicing pediatrician, appointed by the Governor;
Paul Parker, MD; 3-year term; expired 3/31/2019
Rebecca Bell MD, VT American Academy of Pediatrics, President, has not been appointed by the Governor, but was present at the last meeting while Dr. Paul Parker was not present.

(6) a representative of both public and independent schools, appointed by the Governor; and
Carol Hauke; 1-year term; expired 3/31/2017;
Deb Doyon; 3-year term; expired 3/31/2019

No per diems have been expended.

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

18 V.S.A. § 1131 Section (a) creates the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council for the purpose to provide education policy, medical, and epidemiological expertise and advise to the Department with regard to the safety of immunizations and immunization schedules.

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

There is a continued need for the Council due to the changing environment of infectious diseases and the evolution of immunizations and immunization schedules. In addition to providing expertise and recommendations to the Department, the Council also serves as a forum for public engagement regarding immunizations and immunization schedules. Moreover, the Council creates a formal link between the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to discuss immunization schedules in schools. If the Council no longer fulfilled this purpose, the public would lose the forum to submit public comment. The Commissioner would, however, maintain to seek recommendations from stakeholders and technical experts, such as the State Epidemiologist, pediatric physicians, and policy and legal teams within the Department of Education.

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

When the Council met, in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022, it executed its purpose. The Council members have been active participants in meetings, offering comments and discussion on the latest medical and epidemiological findings and the implications on educational policies.

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 Council's work consists primarily of yearly meetings, which represent a reasonably effective and efficient way to develop recommendations.

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?

There are other federal and state bodies that review and recommend immunizations and immunization schedules, though none with the specific composition of this Advisory Council, which includes local stakeholders. This Council is still an appropriate entity to fulfill this 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. How are these funded?

There have been no 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 Council is not required by law to prepare any reports or studies to the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer. The Council is required to review and make recommendations regarding the State's immunization schedule for attendance in schools and childcare facilities, and provide any other advice and expertise requested by the Commissioner, which it has done except during 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic response when the Council did not meet.