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 RECI board has not met in the past two fiscal years. The last meeting was held in February, 2020. However, the board is supposed to meet at least twice per year.

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.

There are three members that are appointed by the VSEA and an additional three members appointed by the Administration. In addition, a representative is appointed by the Commissioner of Human Resources. The current VSEA appointees are: Theresa Lefebvre, Dave Bellini, and Tanya Beaudoin. The Administration appointees are Bruce Hyde, Al Blake, and May Lou Bolt. Since the last meeting was held over two years ago, the appointees are still current but would most likely be reviewed prior to the next meeting. There is no per diem.

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

The committee reviews the health insurance benefits available to retired employees through the State. It will make whatever recommendations it deems appropriate to the Secretary of Administration on the existing plan and on any changes under consideration.

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

As the retiree benefits are not currently bargained, this committee provides a venue for retirees to discuss the health benefit plans and make recommendations. If the board no longer existed, retirees would have not an official venue in which to do this.

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

Prior to 2020, the board met on a regular basis and would make recommendations directly to the SoA per the discussions during the committee meetings.

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

Other than enforcement of a meeting schedule, there are no additional efficiencies to be found.

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 members of this committee that are also members of other advisory groups like the Benefits Advisory Committee (VSEA) and the VRSEA board. Avoiding this overlap could help disseminate information more efficiently.

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?

The board does not receive funding.

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?

There are no required reports or studies.