

- SUBJECT:** Changing or eliminating sunset date for various state entities
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Swinford, Miller, B. Cook, Farrar, J. Keffer, Martinez Fischer, Villarreal, Wong
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Gattis
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — Joey Longley, Sunset Advisory Commission
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 325, the Texas Sunset Act, requires the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Legislature to evaluate state agencies periodically by providing for their abolition on specific dates. Most agencies are scheduled for review once every 12 years. About 200 agencies and advisory commissions are subject to the provisions of the act, and about 20 to 30 agencies go through the sunset process each legislative session. A state agency is subject to the act if a date for its review or abolition is set by statute.
- DIGEST:** HB 1116 would change the following agencies' statutory sunset dates:
- for the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, from September 1, 2007, to September 1, 2009;
 - for the Texas Cancer Council, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, and the Governor's Committee on People With Disabilities, from September 1, 2011, to September 1, 2009;
 - for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, from September 1, 2013, to September 1, 2015.

The bill would delete the sunset provision for the Criminal Justice Policy Council, the Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission, the State Aircraft Pooling Board, the Property and Casualty Insurance Legislative Oversight Committee, and the Electric Utility Restructuring Legislative Oversight Committee.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

Each session, the Legislature traditionally alters the sunset review schedule to bring similar agencies under review at the same time, to address special problems or concerns, or to adjust the Sunset Advisory Commission's workload. This bill would make these adjustments. It also would remove from sunset review certain agencies that no longer are operational. The Legislature more appropriately can determine whether to retain the two legislative oversight committees rather than subjecting them to sunset review. Also, this bill potentially could be used later in the session as a vehicle to continue agencies that are under sunset review this session to avoid inadvertently terminating those agencies if the individual bills continuing those agencies fail to be enacted for other reasons.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 412 by Nelson, has been referred to the Senate Government Organization Committee.