

SUBJECT: Adding criteria for a Sunset review of an agency that licenses occupations

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Phelan, Hernandez, Deshotel, Guerra, Harless, Holland,
Hunter, P. King, Parker, E. Rodriguez, Smithee, Springer

0 nays

1 absent — Raymond

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 11 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Julia Parenteau, Texas Realtors)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Francis, Texas Department of
Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about the online availability of personal
information of occupational license holders, with calls to ensure the
agencies issuing the licenses exercise caution when posting information
online in order to protect the safety of these licensees.

DIGEST: SB 237 would require the Sunset Advisory Commission, as part of its
review of an agency that licenses an occupation or profession, to
determine whether the agency's governing body had made an evaluation
of the type of personal information of license holders the agency should
make available on its website, based on the following factors:

- the type of information the public needed to verify a license, locate a service provider, and file a complaint with the agency; and
- whether making the information available on the website could subject a licensee to harassment, solicitation, or other nuisance.

If the Sunset Advisory Commission determined that the agency's governing body had not completed such an evaluation, then it would be required to make a recommendation that the governing body do so.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.