

Death, Taxes, and Alcohol

Or Just Another Day at Sunset

Steven Ogle, General Counsel

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WHAT IS SUNSET?

Sunset conducts regular assessment of the continuing need for a state agency or program to exist.

- The Sunset process works by setting an automatic termination (Sunset) date on which an agency will be abolished unless a bill is passed to continue it.
- The process creates a unique opportunity and powerful incentive for the Legislature and stakeholders to look closely at each agency and make key improvements to how state government works.

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COMMISSION AND REVIEWS

- **5 senators** appointed by the lieutenant governor and **5 representatives** appointed by the speaker of the house (4-year terms)
- **2 public members** who “[act] on behalf of the legislature,” one each appointed by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house (2-year terms)
- About 140 agencies are subject to Sunset review usually every 12 years
 - Most are subject to abolishment if not continued through legislation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Commission members may modify, adopt, or not adopt any staff recommendations, and may make additional recommendations for the commission to consider

Statutory changes are put into a bill and must be approved by the Senate and House as ordinary legislation. **Management actions** take effect immediately upon adoption.

- **Fairness**
 - Do processes account for due process, objectivity, and reasonableness?
- **Effectiveness**
 - Is the state getting its money’s worth?
- **Efficiency**
 - Is there a more cost effective, less cumbersome, or more cohesive way of performing a certain function?
- **Accountability**
 - Is the public able to participate in government? Is the agency transparent to stakeholders, the Legislature, and executive leadership?

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