

# HB 190 Alaska Sunset Commission

House State Affairs  
March 12, 2024

# How The Alaska Sunset Commission Will Work

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The Sunset shines a light on state agencies and programs to see if they are still relevant in a changing world. If the answer is yes, the Sunset recommends improvements to make them more effective and efficient. If the answer is no, the sunset recommends abolishing the agency or transferring its functions to another agency with related functions.

# How The Alaska Sunset Commission Will Work

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The Commission would be administratively housed under the Lt. Governor. Commissioners will be appointed by the Governor, Speaker, and Senate President.

The Commission shall be proficient in financial management, business operations, budgeting economics, process improvement or government efficiency.

The Commission may hire staff and consultants with similar proficiencies to conduct a review of each entity of a Department

HB 190 would Require the Commission to hold public hearings; at least one on the road system for each entity reviewed.

The Commission drafts legislation that must be acted upon or the entity will sunset.

# How the Alaska Sunset Works

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- **Sunset Staff Evaluation**
  - Each year, the Commission will review one state department and each of its entities: divisions and corporations. Sunset staff will perform extensive research and analysis to evaluate the need for, performance for, and improvements to the entity under review.
- **Sunset Commission Staff**
  - Reviews the agency's self-evaluation report
  - Receives input from interested parties
  - Evaluates entity and identifies problems
  - Develops recommendations
  - Publishes staff reports
- **Sunset Commission Deliberation**
  - The Sunset Commission conducts a public hearing to take testimony on the staff report and the agency overall. The Sunset Commission conducts a second meeting to vote on which changes to recommend to the Legislature.

# How the Alaska Sunset Works

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- Public Hearings
  - Sunset staff presents its reports and recommendations
  - The agency presents its response
  - The Sunset Commission will hear public testimony and receive written comments
  - The Sunset Commission will meet again to consider and vote on recommendations
  - Public Input is published on the website
  - The Sunset bills will go through the normal legislative process
- Legislative Action
  - The Sunset bill on an entity is drafted and submitted through the Rules Committee
  - The Legislature will consider the Sunset Commission's recommendations and make its final decisions
  - The Senate and the House conduct committee hearings and debate/Amend the bill
  - Bill passes or fails adoption
  - If the Legislature fails to adopt or act on a bill, the entity sunsets at the end of the following fiscal year.

# HB 190 is Modeled After The Texas Sunset Commission

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The sunset process is a key legislative oversight tool that significantly streamlined and improved Texas government since it was created by the Texas Legislature in 1977. Sunset promotes a culture of continuous improvement in state government by providing objective, nonpartisan public forum for evaluating the need for state agencies and their effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness to the public.

# Texas Sunset During the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature

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The Sunset Commission reviewed 21 entities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in Texas, resulting in 235 recommendations to streamline state government while enhancing services to our citizens. Generally, the recommendations eliminate unnecessary regulations, and improve accountability, align agencies' procedures with best practices, and strengthen effective delivery of services to Texans.

# Impact of Sunset Reviews

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The Texas Sunset process has led to major policy changes in almost every area of state government. Sunset recommendations also have eliminated duplication among agencies and programs, increased public participation, helped with government accountability, and improved the quality and efficiency of government services.



# Sunset's Impact Since 1977

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## Streamlining Texas Government

- 42 entities and programs have been abolished
- 52 entities and programs have been abolished and transferred or consolidated

## Saving Taxpayer money

- \$1 billion in state and federal savings and revenue gains
- Return of \$18 for every \$1 appropriated to the Sunset Commission since 1985

## Providing Effective Oversight

- 570 reviews of state agencies and programs conducted
- 80 percent of Sunset recommendations to the Legislature have become state law since 2001

# State of Alaska Department Entities

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- Department of Administration - 15
- Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development - 18
- Department of Corrections - 4
- Department of Education and Early Development - 5
- Department of Environmental Conservation - 5
- Department of Family and Community Services - 7
- Department of Fish and Game - 10
- Department of Health - 8
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development - 11
- Department of Law - 8
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - 12
- Department of Natural Resources - 13
- Department of Public Safety - 14
- Department of Revenue - 16
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities - 31
- University of Alaska - 3

**Total amount of Entities = 180**

# Helpful Links

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Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

<https://www.sunset.texas.gov/>

The State of Alaska Agency Directory

<https://www.alaska.gov/akdir1.html>

# Questions?

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