

The Sunset Review of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards

The mission and performance of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards is currently being reviewed by the Legislature as required under the Texas Sunset Act. The Act provides that the Sunset Commission, composed of legislators and public members, periodically evaluate a state agency to determine if the agency is still needed, and what improvements are needed to ensure that state funds are well spent. Based on the recommendations of the Sunset Commission, the Texas Legislature ultimately decides whether an agency continues to operate into the future.

The Sunset review involves three steps. First, Sunset Commission staff will evaluate the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and, in November 2008, will issue a report recommending solutions to problems found. The Sunset Commission will then meet to hear public testimony on the agency and the recommendations of the Sunset staff. This meeting is scheduled for December 16 and 17, 2008. Based on public input and the Sunset staff report, the Sunset Commission will adopt recommendations for the full Legislature to consider when it convenes in January 2009.

Through the Sunset review, every Texan has the opportunity to suggest ways in which the mission and operations of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards can be strengthened. If you would like to share your ideas about the agency, please contact Katharine Teleki of the Sunset staff. Suggestions are preferred by July 31, 2008, so they can be fully considered by the Commission staff.

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Information about the Sunset process, including information on Sunset Commission meetings, can be found at: www.sunset.state.tx.us.