

By: Price

H.R. No. 3646

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The staff of the Sunset Advisory Commission provided
2 vital assistance to the 84th Texas Legislature during the 2014-2015
3 Sunset review cycle; and

4 WHEREAS, Between September 2013 and January 2015, the Sunset
5 Advisory Commission worked to develop recommendations regarding
6 the 20 agencies under Sunset review, including the Administrative
7 Hearings Tax Division, the State Office of Administrative Hearings,
8 the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of
9 Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Interagency Task Force
10 for Children with Special Needs, the Texas Council for
11 Developmental Disabilities, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas
12 Facilities Commission, the Department of Family and Protective
13 Services, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas
14 Health Care Information Council, the Texas Health Services
15 Authority, the Department of State Health Services, the Governor's
16 Committee on People with Disabilities, the Texas Council on
17 Purchasing from People with Disabilities, Entry Criteria for
18 Self-Directed Semi-Independent Agencies, the State Soil and Water
19 Conservation Board, the University Interscholastic League, the
20 Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Workforce Investment
21 Council; and

22 WHEREAS, the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendations to
23 the 84th Legislature are intended to streamline government and best
24 meet the needs of Texans; they include abolishing 13 agencies and

1 related boards, commissions, and councils, eliminating 45
2 statutory advisory committees, and discontinuing nine regulatory
3 programs and four other programs, producing an estimated positive
4 fiscal impact to the state of \$66.5 million over the upcoming
5 2016-2017 biennium; and

6 WHEREAS, To develop the recommendations, the Sunset Advisory
7 Commission, with the professional assistance of the Sunset staff
8 held numerous hearings, including two days of hearings that lasted
9 over 27 hours from June 24 to June 25, 2014; commission members
10 heard from Sunset staff, agency officials, and more than 240
11 individuals who offered valuable public testimony; commission
12 members also had the opportunity to ask many salient questions
13 during the hearings; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the inception of the Sunset Advisory
15 Commission in 1977, the process has significantly streamlined and
16 improved state government; among the 79 agencies that have been
17 eliminated, 37 were completely abolished and 42 were abolished with
18 certain functions transferred to existing or newly created
19 agencies; in addition, the legislature has enacted a large majority
20 of the Sunset Commission's recommendations; for example, of the
21 agencies reviewed by Sunset for the 83rd Legislature in 2013, the
22 legislature adopted 75 percent of the commission's
23 recommendations; and

24 WHEREAS, The fiscal impact of Sunset recommendations over
25 time has been estimated through fiscal notes that accompany Sunset
26 legislation; estimates from reviews conducted between 1982 and 2013
27 indicate a 31-year positive fiscal impact of approximately \$945.6

1 million, compared with expenditures of \$37.2 million for the Sunset
2 Commission; based on these figures, every dollar spent on the
3 Sunset process has earned the state approximately \$25 in return;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Sunset staff was named the 2012 winner of the
6 National Conference of State Legislatures Excellence in Evaluation
7 Award, and NCSL cited the commission's quality analytical methods
8 and superior written and verbal communication as reasons for its
9 selection; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Sunset Advisory
11 Commission agency director Ken Levine, the staff team members for
12 the 2014-2015 review cycle include: Jennifer Jones, Ginny McKay,
13 Joe Walraven, Steven Ogle, Karen Latta, Karl Spock, Amy Trost, Faye
14 Rencher, Katharine Teleki, Sarah Kirkle, Anne Allensworth, Eric
15 Beverly, Erick Fajardo, Kay Hricik, Emily Johnson, Carissa Nash,
16 Danielle Nasr, Sean Shurtleff, Amy Tripp, Skylar Wilk, Cee Hartley,
17 Cindy Womack, Dawn Roberson, Janet Wood, and Brittany Calame; and

18 WHEREAS, These noteworthy public servants have demonstrated
19 extraordinary dedication and the utmost professionalism in
20 furthering the vital mission of the Sunset Advisory Commission, and
21 their endeavors have contributed immeasurably to the efficiency and
22 accountability of state government; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby commend the members of the 2014-2015 Sunset
25 Advisory Commission review cycle team for their outstanding work
26 and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
27 further

H.R. No. 3646

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for the commission as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.