

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING  
2018 Sunset Review**

As you know, the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying (*TBPLS*) will undergo Sunset review during the 2018-2019 Sunset review cycle in preparation for the 86<sup>TH</sup> Legislative Session which will convene on January 8, 2019. The Commission has 12 members . . . 5 Senators, 5 Representatives, and 2 members of the public, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. The position of chair rotates between the House and the Senate every two years.

The Sunset Commission Members are:

**Senate Members**

Brian Birdwell, Chair (R-Granbury)  
Dawn Buckingham, M.D. (R-Lakeway)  
Bob Hall (R-Canton)  
Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville)  
Kirk Watson (D-Austin)  
Emily Pataki, Public Member (Cedar Park)

**House Members**

Chris Paddie, Vice Chair (R-Marshall)  
Dan Flynn (R-Van)  
Stan Lambert (R-Abilene)  
Poncho Nevárez (D-Eagle Pass)  
Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston)  
Ronald G. Steinhart, Public Member (Dallas)

The Commission met in Austin on March 19, 2018 and adopted a Review Schedule for the 32 state agencies that will be reviewed this cycle. The *TBPLS* will be reviewed in August, September and October 2018. A public hearing will be held on December 12-13, 2018 and the Commission will make decisions on January 9, 2019.

As a general rule, all state agencies undergo Sunset review every 12 years. As a result, current law provides that the *TBPLS*, unless continued in existence as provided by the Sunset review process, will be abolished effective September 1, 2019.

Accordingly, the Sunset review process requires that prior to January 1, 2019 the Commission and its staff will conduct a review of the *TBPLS* and submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor which makes recommendations on the abolition, continuation, or reorganization of the agency. Additionally, the Commission will draft legislation to implement the Commission's recommendations. To learn more about how Sunset works in Texas, go to <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/how-sunset-works>.

Also, as part of the Sunset review process, the TBPLS is required to submit a Self-Evaluation Report to the Sunset Advisory Commission, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each member of the Legislature. This Report includes information regarding the criteria that the Commission and its Staff must consider in determining whether a public need exists for the continuation of the agency and any other information the agency considers appropriate. The criteria that the Commission and its staff must consider is listed in §325.011, Texas Government Code. The TBPLS Self-Evaluation Report is dated September 2017 and may found at <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/reviews-and-reports/agencies/texas-board-professional-land-surveying>.

Therefore, during the remainder of 2018 and the upcoming 2019 Session of the Texas Legislature, the TSPS Legislative Team will be working hard to convince the Sunset Staff, the members of the Sunset Advisory Commission, and the 181 members of the Legislature that the continuation of the TBPLS as an independent licensing agency for another 12 years is necessary in order the protect the citizens of Texas. **It is imperative that each and every TSPS member join in this effort. The future of the TBPLS and the surveying profession is potentially at risk . . . and we need your help.**

Attached for your review is the background information and comments that TSPS will provide to the Sunset staff and members of the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Legislature in support of the TBPLS and its continuation as an independent licensing agency which performs a very important role in protecting the best interests of the citizens of Texas. Please review this document, discuss the pending Sunset review of the TBPLS with your State Senator and State Representative, and ask them to support the surveying profession by voting to continue the TBPLS as an independent licensing agency for another 12 years. Thank you for your help. We will keep you informed regarding future developments as we move through this process.

For additional information regarding the TBPLS and the Sunset process, please contact TSPS Legal and Legislative Counsel, Mark J. Hanna, 2414 Exposition Boulevard, Suite A-1, Austin, Texas 78703; telephone: (512) 477-6200; facsimile: (512) 477-1188; electronic mail: [mhanna@markjhanna.com](mailto:mhanna@markjhanna.com).