



Center for Public Policy Priorities

THE POLICY PAGE

An Update on State and Federal Action

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[Editors Note: Although the formal comment period is closed, TWC is still accepting feedback through the Sunset process]

MAKE COMMENTS ON TWC BY MARCH 8

The Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards are under Sunset review. Now is the time to add your perspectives and ideas.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A COMMENT?

The Sunset Advisory Commission gives Texans a variety of ways to communicate their perspectives and ideas on the Sunset review of the Texas Workforce Commission, including:

- TWC Sunset Questionnaire at www.sunset.state.tx.us/sunset/questionformtwc.htm
- Sunset On-line Feedback Form at www.sunset.state.tx.us/sunset/question.htm
- E-mail the Sunset Commission at sunadmin@sunset.state.tx.us
- Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711
Phone number: (512) 463-1300
Fax number: (512) 463-0705

**You do not have to give your name.
Comments due March 8, 2002.**

WHO SHOULD COMMENT?

All Texans are encouraged to have their say in the Sunset process. Anyone who interacts with local workforce development boards, board contractors, job training and child care providers, workforce centers, or the Texas Workforce Commission should provide the Sunset Commission with their ideas and perspectives on the TWC Sunset review. Recipients of services are encouraged to submit comments.

WHAT IS SUNSET?

Sunset is the regular assessment by the Legislature of the continuing need for a state agency to exist. While most oversight is concerned with agency compliance with legislative policies, Sunset asks a more basic

question: Do the agency's functions continue to be needed? The Sunset process works by setting a date on which an agency will be abolished unless legislation is passed to continue its functions. This creates a unique opportunity for the Legislature to look closely at each agency and make fundamental changes to an agency's mission or operations if needed. Agencies are typically reviewed every 12 years. About 20 to 30 agencies go through the Sunset process each legislative session." This description can be found at www.sunset.state.tx.us.

TWC BACKGROUND

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and its network of 28 local workforce development boards are currently up for Sunset review. TWC and the boards are responsible for managing subsidized child care, job training for low-income and dislocated workers, and the unemployment insurance system. In addition, TWC is charged with helping Texans of all incomes connect with employers and with helping employers find the workforce they need to be productive. The opportunity for public comment on TWC is particularly important because of its decentralized system of management.

When reviewing a state agency, the Sunset Commission examines the statutory rationale behind the agency's existence. TWC was created by HB 1863 in the 74th Texas Legislative Session in 1995. According to HB 1863, TWC is a state agency established to operate an integrated workforce development system in this state, in particular through the consolidation of job training, employment, and employment-related educational programs available in this state, and to administer the unemployment compensation insurance program

in this state. The commission shall meet the needs of:

- (1) businesses of this state for the development of a highly skilled and productive workforce;
- (2) workers of this state for education, skills training, and labor market information to enhance their employability, earnings, and standard of living and for an efficient unemployment compensation system;
- (3) people of this state who are making a transition into the workforce, particularly persons receiving public assistance, displaced homemakers, and students making the transition from school to work;
- (4) communities of this state to provide economic incentive programs for job creation, attraction, and expansion; and
- (5) taxpayers of this state to ensure that tax revenues for workforce development are spent efficiently and effectively.

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