

SUBJECT: Extending the sunset date for certain state governmental entities

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Hunter, Hernandez, Anchía, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf,
Raymond, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller, S. Thompson, Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Dean

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Zachary Mance, Vistra Corporation)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Francis, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission)

DIGEST: HB 1620 would extend the sunset date for certain state agencies and entities from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2025. The agencies and entities would include:

- the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas;
- the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office;
- the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- the Texas Juvenile Justice Board and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
- the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement;
- the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- the Office of Public Utility Counsel;
- the San Antonio River Authority;
- the State Soil and Water Conservation Board;
- the Office of State-Federal Relations; and
- the Texas Water Development Board.

If a conflict existed between HB 1620 and another act of the regular session of the 88th Legislature that extended the sunset date of a governmental entity, the other act would control.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1620 would ensure that agencies currently under sunset review would be continued for two years and undergo review at the end of that period in the event that any agency's individual sunset bill failed to be enacted by the 88th Legislature. Some agencies currently under view regulate areas that are also subject to federal regulation, and HB 1620 would help the state avoid abolishing agencies so as to cede regulation of those areas entirely to the federal government. The bill would specify that any other sunset legislation would take precedence so that the bill would only come into effect as needed.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.