

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Saturday, December 1, 2018 7:53 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD PLUMBING EXAMINERS

First Name: Nathan

Last Name: Jester

Title: Apprentice Plumber; ADCR Endorsed

Organization you are affiliated with: Empower Plumbing Services

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

Issue 1- The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Could More Effectively Regulate Plumbers

1) The mission of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) is to protect Texas citizens against the health and safety hazards that can result from improperly installed plumbing, gas, and medical gas systems.

2) The mission of TDLR is "To earn the trust of Texans every day by providing innovative regulatory solutions for our licensees and those they serve." TDLR already oversees 39 license divisions within the State, The State recognized the need and importance of regulating plumbing and created an independent state agency in 1947 to protect its citizens from improperly installed plumbing systems. Putting an agency that is struggling to meet the demands of a growing Texas economy under another State agency will not fix the problem. Relocating a problem does not fix the situation, let us concentrate on a solution before abolishing a State Board that has protected the Citizens of Texas for 71 years.

Issue 2 - "Overregulation and Complex Licensure Requirements Inhibit Entry into and Growth in the Plumbing Industry"

1) Every regulation and license requirement whether it be plumbing, electrical, medical or any service that requires an individual and/or company to interact and perform a task for the public has been created as a reactionary need in response to an event that cost someone their life, health or loss of property. The only reason we have rules and laws for occupational licensing is because they affect the well being of the Citizens of the State of Texas.

2) The trade of Plumbing is not one that you can learn in a short training class or by a few hours working under the supervision of someone with experience, that is why the rules that have been developed over the years require substantial on-the-job training hours as well as classroom training.

All the average person sees is a fixture that water, natural gas or medical gas comes from for the different purposes they serve, they do not see the intricate network of piping that is concealed in walls and below ground. The same can be said for the plumbing fixtures that collect our waste and take those wastes away, all the concealed piping and the way it is arranged is crucial to protecting our health.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- 1) Maintain the TSBPE as a stand-alone State Agency to protect the Health and Safety of the Citizens of Texas
- 2) Fill the expired 3 positions on the Board and give the Board the chance to correct the inefficiencies that are currently noted and catch up on the backlog of exams
- 3) Explore possibilities of modernizing the written exam to a computer based one that could be done at third-party certified centers across the state but maintain a practical portion of the exam. Even though hands on experience is required to be signed off by a licensed individual the need for a license candidate to prove that they understand how to install plumbing systems needs to be by practical hands on examination, not just a written or electronic exam for theory of understanding.
- 4) The Board generated 5.2 million dollars in revenue in 2017. It was appropriated 2.6 million for operating costs and transferred more than 2.5 million to the General Revenue Fund. How about taking some of that excess revenue and fixing the problems noted in the operations of the Board. By fixing the problems of this Board we could keep an independent agency that licenses and enforces the Plumbing Laws of Texas and it would still generate revenue for the General Fund.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree