

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, December 10, 2018 8:06:32 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Saturday, December 8, 2018 2:06 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: Brian

Last Name: Peebles

Title: Apprentice

Organization you are affiliated with: UA Local 286

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I would like to begin this comment by acknowledging the diligent work of the Sunset Commission on this year's review, and I thank them for their report.

However I must disagree with the following points.

- I oppose the suggestion that the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation can more effectively regulate Plumbers. The TSBPE is and has been perfectly adequate for the purposes of distributing licenses to Plumbers who have been rigorously trained in this career, the issue in previous years has been a lack of appropriate funding and resources
- I oppose the suggestion that "Overregulation and Complex Licensure requirements inhibit entry into and growth in the plumbing industry" The degree to which plumbers must be trained is a highly purposeful and necessary part of that career in order to maintain and improve the health of Texas citizens. The systems and utilities that plumbing work is done on has proven to be fatal if done incorrectly, if the bar of required skills and education is lowered, the overall health and safety of Texas citizens may be lowered with it. It currently takes five (5) years to fully train a Journeyman plumber to the point he may be allowed responsibility for his work, and this is done with no time wasted, this training time has been slimmed down to a point which I feel cannot be lowered any further safely.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

My personal suggestions are as follows

- Maintain the TSBPE as it stands, and allow it to run with appropriate funding and resources if you wish to ensure full effectiveness

- Fill the expired 3 positions on the Board and give the Board opportunities to correct the inefficiencies and backlog currently affecting it.
- Explore the possibilities of modernizing the current exams to computer based ones that can be done at third-party certified systems across the state, maintaining the practical portion of the exam. This may be effective in reducing the backlog.
- The TSBPE generated 5.2 million dollars in revenue in 2017 alone, but was only appropriated 2.6 million dollars for operating costs and transferred more than 2.5 million to the General Revenue Fund. Using the profit generated by the TSBPE to correct its inefficiencies and better fund it may return a greater profit alongside fixing it. This may guarantee a long term income solution with less bureaucracy than it would require to merge it with the TLDR, which may not guarantee revenue

In closing, the TSPBE is an invaluable part of the Texas economy and health.
Removing it for issues that are entirely avoidable with perfectly viable and reasonable solutions is unnecessary.

Thank you for your time
Brian Peebles, Local 286 Apprentice

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree