

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:22:39 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 9:28 AM
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: Frank

Last Name: Willburn

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Amarillo

State: Texas

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

Shortage of plumbers.

There is a nationwide shortage of not just plumbers, but all tradesman. The exam backlog has little to do with this. It is frustrating to have to wait 6-8 months for a test date, but this is not the root cause of the problem. The problem stretches back years. The baby boomers in the industry are beginning to retire and there are just not enough people to take their place.

Years ago we began to tell our children that they could not make it in this world if they didn't go to college. We began to look down on those who did not attend college, and taught our children to do the same. The many years we sowed these beliefs are being reaped now. 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months for a test will not change this mindset. We must teach our children that there is nothing wrong with being a tradesperson. No shame in it at all.

Testing backlog.

Of all the items in the report, this is the one that I believe has some relevance. TDLR does have the infrastructure to stream line this process to a point. The practical hands on portion is important. I believe this is the only piece that would improve under TDLR.

TDLR.

As I mentioned the infrastructure for testing is the only thing I think they can do better. Enforcement from TDLR, in my opinion, has been very lacking.

In all my years in the field I can not recall seeing a single TDLR enforcement agent. I can not tell you the number of times I have seen the TSBPE field agent out in the field. He has asked for my license and the license of everyone else each time I have seen him. He has even asked to see the HVAC employees license or certification. I asked him about it, and he said that they help each other out checking licenses.

I think that it would be detrimental to the plumbing industry in general if it were rolled under the umbrella of TDLR

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Move the written portion of the test into an electronic medium. Use existing facilities across the state to carry out the practical portion of the exam

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree