

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SUNSET STAFF REPORT

## State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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The limited scope review of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners follows up on the full Sunset review of the agency conducted in the 2016–17 biennium. At that time, the Sunset Commission adopted and forwarded recommendations on the agency to the 85th Legislature to address the significant issues found with management and information technology, as well as the growing concerns about controlled substance monitoring and enforcement in veterinary practice. The Sunset Commission’s statutory recommendations were incorporated into Senate Bill 319, which ultimately passed, continuing the agency for only four years. Additionally, both Senate Bill 319 and House Bill 2561 required improved monitoring of veterinarians’ use of controlled substances, including automatically registering veterinarians to use the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) database, and requiring the agency to monitor, identify, and investigate potentially harmful prescribing and dispensing patterns. Senate Bill 319 also focused this current Sunset staff review on evaluating the ongoing appropriateness of the statutory recommendations adopted by the Sunset Commission.

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Sunset staff recommends continuing the agency for eight years, instead of the standard 12 years, to coincide with the Sunset reviews of other boards prescribing and dispensing boards. Aligning these reviews will allow Sunset to evaluate the state’s overall regulation of practitioners prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. The status of each statutory recommendation made by the commission and adopted by the 85th Legislature is shown in the chart, Status of 2017 Sunset Commission Recommendations on the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, beginning on page 3 of this report. Although the Sunset Commission’s previous management recommendations related to data collecting, tracking and analysis were outside the limited scope of this review, these recommendations remain appropriate and require ongoing implementation.

The following material summarizes the recommendation in this report to continue the agency. For additional information on the previous Sunset review of the agency, please see the *Staff Report with Final Results*, published in June 2017 and available on the Sunset Commission’s website. The 2017 report contains

detailed information on the original Sunset staff recommendations, Sunset Commission decisions, and legislative action on the agency taken during the 85th Legislature.

## **Summary of Sunset Issue and Recommendation**

### **ISSUE 1**

**The State Has a Continuing Need to Regulate the Practice of Veterinary Medicine, but the Agency Continues to Struggle With Effective Data Collection and Trend Analysis.**

The state continues to need an agency with the expertise to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine to protect the public. Since the last Sunset review in 2016, the agency has implemented the Sunset Commission's previous statutory recommendations. However, the agency continues to struggle with complete and reliable trend data collection. While the agency works to implement its new database system, the previous management recommendations regarding improving data collection, tracking, and analysis remain appropriate.

#### **Key Recommendation**

- Continue the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for eight years, until 2029.

### **Fiscal Implication Summary**

If the Legislature continues the agency, an annual appropriation of about \$1.4 million in general revenue would be needed for its operations.