

# State Preservation Board

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The State has made a significant investment in the construction, restoration, and preservation of several historic and notable buildings, including the Capitol, 1857 General Land Office Building, Governor's Mansion, and Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. The State Preservation Board (SPB) is the agency responsible for protecting and maintaining these irreplaceable elements of Texas heritage. The Sunset review of SPB produced comprehensive improvements to the governance and overall operations of the agency to allow it to more successfully manage its expanding duties, diverse operations, and funding limitations.

Senate Bill 201, the SPB Sunset bill, enacts changes to strengthen SPB's unique governance structure. The bill requires the Board to meet more regularly to provide the level of direction and oversight typical of most other state agencies, but allows its busiest members — the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives — to appoint designees for needed flexibility. A series of directives made through the Sunset review also ensure the Board and agency establish needed and more transparent budget and planning tools to effectively manage agency operations and finances, particularly as SPB continues to rely more on its earned revenues and less on state funding.

Other changes made through the Sunset review help secure the future of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, as it begins to carry out a \$10 million strategic plan designed to bring the Museum into national prominence. Senate Bill 201 establishes the museum director position in statute to clarify responsibility for the management of the Museum and to support efforts to earn national accreditation. The review also directs better use of the Museum Fund and more controls over partnerships with affiliated nonprofits, and allows for the naming of areas within the Museum in honor of donors or benefactors, to help it achieve greater financial stability.

The following material summarizes results of the Sunset review of SPB, including management actions directed to the Board and agency that do not require statutory change. For additional information see the *State Preservation Board Sunset Final Report with Legislative Action* available on the Sunset Commission website at [www.sunset.state.tx.us](http://www.sunset.state.tx.us).

## **Continuation and Governance**

- Continues the State Preservation Board for 12 years.
- Allows certain Board members to designate representatives to participate in meetings.
- Requires the Board to meet at least twice per year.
- The Board should resume oversight of SPB at a level typical of other agencies. (management action – nonstatutory)

## **Agency Operations**

- Guides development of needed budgeting and planning tools.
  - Directs SPB to create and maintain an agency operating budget that includes all areas of expenditure and funding. (management action – nonstatutory)

- Establishes the Governor’s Mansion Renewal Trust Fund for the maintenance and preservation of the Governor’s Mansion.
- Directs SPB to create a comprehensive five-year capital improvement plan across all properties it manages and an annual project schedule. (management action – nonstatutory)
- SPB should conduct a regular, comprehensive assessment of the agency’s enterprise functions to evaluate potential for optimizing revenue. (management action – nonstatutory)
- The Board should modify its proposed rules governing SPB’s relationships with its affiliated nonprofit organizations to specifically address standards of conduct and ensure adherence to accepted best practices. (management action – nonstatutory)
- Authorizes development of staff policies and procedures.
  - SPB should develop and implement a succession plan to prepare for impending retirements and workforce changes. (management action – nonstatutory)
  - Directs SPB to formally document and regularly update its key duties and procedures in writing, and make them available electronically. (management action – nonstatutory)
  - Directs SPB to develop and implement an agencywide staff training and development policy. (management action – nonstatutory)

### **Museum Operations**

- Requires the SPB executive director to employ a museum director to operate and manage the Museum.
- Requires the Board to adopt reasonable policies for naming areas within the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.
- Directs the Board to adopt a policy that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the museum director and the executive director in the management of the Museum. (management action – nonstatutory)
- Directs the agency to develop a separate strategic plan and annual report for the Museum by January 2013, and continue to provide the Museum Fund Annual Report. (management action – nonstatutory)
- Directs the Board to develop a policy on the use of the Museum Fund that governs the Fund’s balances by January 2013. (management action – nonstatutory)
- Provides the museum director with authority to create an advisory council to provide additional advice and expertise on Museum programming and operations by January 2013. (management action – nonstatutory)

### **Fiscal Implication**

None of these changes will have a significant fiscal impact to the State.