

**The Sunset Review of the
Texas State Board of Medical Examiners,
Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners and
Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners**

The mission and performance of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners and Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners are currently being reviewed by the Legislature as required under the Texas Sunset Act. The Act provides that the Sunset Commission, composed of legislators and public members, periodically evaluate certain state agencies and entities to determine if they are still needed, and what improvements are necessary. Based on the recommendations of the Sunset Commission, the Texas Legislature ultimately decides whether an entity continues to operate into the future.

The Sunset review involves three steps. First, Sunset Commission staff will evaluate the Medical, Physician Assistant and Acupuncture boards and, in October 2004, will issue a report recommending solutions to problems found. The Sunset Commission will then meet to hear the recommendations of the Sunset staff and public testimony on the three boards. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16-17, 2004. Based on public input and the Sunset staff report, the Sunset Commission will adopt recommendations for the full Legislature to consider when it convenes in January 2005.

Through the Sunset review, every Texan has the opportunity to suggest ways in which the mission and operations of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners and Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners can be strengthened. If you would like to share your ideas about any of these three boards, please contact Meredith Whitten of the Sunset staff. Suggestions are preferred by July 23, 2004, so they can be fully considered by the Commission staff.

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Information about the Sunset process, including more information on Sunset Commission meetings, can be found at www.sunset.state.tx.us.