

## **The Sunset Review of the Texas Ethics Commission**

The mission and performance of the Texas Ethics Commission is 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 a state agency to determine if the agency is still needed, and what improvements are needed to ensure that state funds are well spent. The Texas Ethics Commission is not subject to abolishment. However, based on the recommendations of the Sunset Commission, the Texas Legislature will ultimately decide how the agency will continue to operate in the future.

The Sunset review involves three steps. First, Sunset Commission staff will evaluate the Texas Ethics Commission and, in March 2012, will issue a report recommending solutions to any problems found. The Sunset Commission will then meet to hear public testimony on the agency and the recommendations of the Sunset staff. This meeting will likely be scheduled in April 2012. 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 2013.

Through the Sunset review, every Texan has the opportunity to suggest ways in which the mission and operations of the Texas Ethics Commission can be strengthened. If you would like to share your ideas about the agency, you may send an email to the address below, use the comment form on the Sunset Commission website, or contact Karl Spock of the Sunset staff. Suggestions are preferred by November 21, 2011, so they can be fully considered by the Sunset staff.

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Information about the Sunset process, including information on Sunset Commission meetings, can be found at: [www.sunset.state.tx.us](http://www.sunset.state.tx.us).