

Article VIII Other Regulatory Agencies - Senate

The summary of recommendations below is for the other, non-health or finance related regulatory agencies in Article VIII. These agencies issue licenses, investigate complaints against licensees, and enforce the occupational standards set by relevant statute. The Board of Plumbing Examiners ensure drinking water, air, and medical gases are free from contaminants and functioning in properly designed and installed plumbing systems. The Board of Professional Land Surveying regulates land surveyors who measure the boundaries of real property to prevent issues with encroachment on adjoining properties. The Board of Professional Geoscientists regulate the profession of geoscience. Geoscientists conduct environmental site assessments, evaluate property and mineral rights, investigate and analyze natural hazards, such as coastal erosion, and perform groundwater reserve estimates.

- Board of Plumbing Examiners
- Board of Professional Land Surveying
- Board of Professional Geoscientists

Total Summary of Recommendations

	2018-19 Base	2020-21 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue	\$7,288,495	\$7,288,495	\$0	0.0%
Other Funds	\$129,738	\$124,400	\$(5,338)	(4.1%)
All Funds	\$7,418,233	\$7,412,895	\$(5,338)	(0.1%)

Common Cross Agency Issues and Recommendations:

- The Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed the three agencies during fiscal year 2018.

Agency Specific Issues and Recommendations:

- Plumbing Examiners.
 - Sunset staff found problems including backlogged exams, poor customer service, growing complaint caseloads, as well as several rule and statutory constraints that make entry into the trade and advancement in the career difficult. The Sunset Advisory Commission adopted all of Sunset staff's recommendations, with modifications, including the transfer of the regulation of plumbing to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). According to the Sunset staff report, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) will need to continue operations through fiscal year 2021 as it works with TDLR through the transition.
 - Some additional management actions adopted by the Sunset Commission will require the agency to make changes during fiscal years 2019 and 2020, prior to the transfer of the profession to TDLR. Because some of these management actions will have a cost, the agency has a Sunset-related exceptional item request.
- Land Surveying.
 - Sunset staff found dysfunction in the agency's enforcement processes causing complaint resolution to increase to more than two years on average. The Sunset Advisory Commission decided to consolidate the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, creating the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and adopted Sunset staff recommendations for various statutory changes and management actions necessary to improve the regulation of the profession.
- Geoscientists.
 - Although Sunset staff found state regulation of geoscientists does not protect the public and recommended abolishing the board, the Sunset Commission voted to continue the current board for six more years, with a shortened Sunset date of September 1, 2025.

Rider Highlights:

- Recommendations add contingency provision riders for the agencies' Sunset reviews.