

Sunset Advisory Commission Renders Decision on Consolidation of the Executive Council, the PT Board, and the OT Board

On January 11, 2017, members of the **Texas Sunset Advisory Commission** (Commission) voted to; ***“Continue the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners, Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners..... for 12 years as currently structured.”***

The vote was on a modification of the Sunset staff recommendation in the ***Healthcare Licensing Consolidation Project*** report that would have moved both the PT Board and the OT Board to the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation (TDLR) and reconstitute the independent boards to advisory boards and would have dissolved the Executive Council of Physical Therapy Examiners & Occupational Examiners (ECPTOTE) as a state licensure agency. The modification was proposed by Chairman Larry Gonzales and passed unanimously by the Commission consisting of 10 legislators and 2 public members.

In another modification, the Commission confirmed that the ECPTOTE is an agency whose governance and board structure are worthy of emulation. A new agency, the **Texas Behavior Health Executive Council**, with its associated Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Board of Examiners of Family and Marriage Counselors, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, Board of Social Worker Examiners, and Council on Sex Offender Treatment was modeled after the functional regulatory organization of the ECPTOTE.

The Sunset Commission has concluded its public hearings and deliberation for this review cycle. A ***Sunset Staff Report with Commission Decisions*** which documents the Commission’s decisions on the original staff recommendations and any new issues raised during the hearing process will be issued in February. This report will form the basis of the Sunset bills which will be considered during the 85th Texas Legislature which convened on January 10, 2017.

The ultimate outcome of the Sunset process rests in the hands of the full Legislature. Any change in statute (PT Practice Act and OT Practice Act) as a result of the Sunset process would not occur until passed by both the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives and signed into law by the Governor.

Summaries of the Sunset Commission’s decisions are available online at <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/reviews-and-reports>.