



THE FEDERAL SUNSET ACT OF 2008

U.S. REP. KEVIN BRADY

*"The nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on the earth is a government program."
-President Ronald Reagan*

WHY WE NEED IT

On average, more than five agencies perform the same or related functions. Here's just a small sample of multiple agencies doing the same job:

- 163 programs with a job training or employment function
- 500 urban aid programs
- 342 econ. development programs
- 240 education programs
- 71 business support programs
- 64 welfare programs
- 130 programs serving at risk youth
- 90 early childhood development programs
- 50 homeless assistance programs
- 12 food safety agencies
- 45 federal agencies conducting federal criminal investigations
- 40 employment and training programs
- 27 teen pregnancy programs
- 19 substance abuse programs

HOW IT WORKS

1. The Federal Sunset Act of 2008 creates a bipartisan Sunset Commission, which will set an expiration date on each federal agency.
2. When an agency reaches its expiration date, it must prove its present day value to taxpayers and Congress or face elimination.
3. After a review by the Sunset Commission, a report will be submitted to Congress containing an analysis for each agency and recommendations as to whether the agency should be abolished, reorganized or substantively changed.
4. Congress will then draft legislation to carry out the recommendations.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes. Presently, 24 states have some sort of Sunset review, and have saved hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. In Texas alone, Sunset review has accounted for over \$720 million in savings. Just imagine what the results could be like here in Washington!

For more information, contact Rep. Kevin Brady, or Chris Eyler at 6-7679



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Summary of the Federal Sunset Act of 2008: The Federal Sunset Act of 2008 provides for periodic, systematic review to eliminate agencies that have outlived their usefulness or needlessly duplicate other programs. This review will enable Congress to maximize the value of taxpayer dollars.

- *Sunset Commission* - Establishes a bipartisan Federal Agency Sunset Commission (Sunset Commission) consisting of six members appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and six members appointed by the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Eight appointees will be members of Congress, who will serve for a term of six years. The remaining four members, who are not members of Congress, will serve for a term of three years.
- *Schedule of Review* - The Commission will establish a date for each agency to be reviewed by the Commission at least once every 12 years.
- *Agency Review* – When an agency is due for review, the Commission will consider among other criteria: the agency’s efficiency of operations; the purpose of the agency; whether the agency has operated outside its scope of authority; whether there are better alternatives for achieving the agency’s mission; promptness in processing complaints; extent of the inclusion and encouragement of public participation; and the effects of abolishment on the state and local levels.
- *Commission Report* – Following review, the Commission will submit a report to Congress and the President. This report will provide: (1) an analysis of the efficiency of operation and public need for each agency reviewed; (2) recommendations on whether each agency reviewed should be abolished or reorganized; (3) recommendations on whether the functions of any other agencies should be consolidated, transferred, or reorganized in a reviewed agency; and (4) recommendations for administrative and legislative action for reviewed agencies.
- *Draft Legislation* – The Commission will submit to Congress and the President draft legislation to carry out the Commission’s recommendations.
- *Agency Elimination* - The agency would be abolished no later than one year after the date of the Commission’s review unless Congress reauthorizes the agency. (Congress may extend this period to 2 years.) If the agency or program is not reauthorized, a reasonable effort will be made to relocate that agency’s employees within another federal agency.

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