

The Senate of The State of Texas



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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**STATE SENATOR BRIAN BIRDWELL APPOINTED TO SUNSET COMMISSION BY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

AUSTIN—State Senator Brian Birdwell (R–Granbury) is pleased to announce his appointment by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst to serve on the Sunset Advisory Commission. Guided by a 12-member body as appointed by the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House, the Sunset Advisory Commission was created by the Texas Legislature in 1977 to identify and eliminate waste, duplication and inefficiency within state government agencies.

Senator Birdwell was one of two new senators selected to serve on the Sunset Advisory Commission, including Dan Patrick (R–Houston). Sen. Birdwell was pleased to be selected for such an important role in his first term in the Senate.

“I was honored to receive this appointment, and I intend to put a great deal of work into my time on Sunset,” Sen. Birdwell said. “I campaigned on the principles of cutting government waste and curbing the unnecessary and excessive spending of taxpayer dollars. This appointment will provide me with an opportunity to fulfill that commitment to my constituents and all citizens of Texas.”

The Sunset Advisory Commission, or simply Sunset, involves the regular assessment of the continuing need for a state agency to exist. While standard legislative oversight is concerned with agency compliance with legislative policies, Sunset asks a more basic question: Do the agency's functions continue to be needed? The Sunset process works by setting a date on which an agency will be abolished unless legislation is passed to continue its functions. This creates a unique opportunity for the Legislature to look closely at each agency and make fundamental changes to an agency's mission or operations if needed.

The Sunset Advisory Commission is composed of Senators Robert Nichols (Vice-chair), Brian Birdwell, Joan Huffman, Dan Patrick, John Whitmire and Representatives Dennis Bonnen (Chair), Rafael Anchia, Byron Cook, Harold Dutton and Walter ‘Four’ Price. Two public members of the committee have yet to be appointed.

Sen. Birdwell is appointed through September 1, 2015. Additional information on the Sunset Advisory Commission, including all 24 agencies set for review during the 2012-2013 term, can be found at <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/>.

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