

The logo for the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission is a semi-circle with a thick black border. Inside the semi-circle, the words "Texas", "Sunset", "Advisory", and "Commission" are stacked vertically in a bold, white, serif font.

**Texas  
Sunset  
Advisory  
Commission**

---

**STAFF EVALUATION**

---

***Technology Training Board***

---

---

**A Staff Report  
to the  
Sunset Advisory Commission**

**1986**

**TECHNOLOGY TRAINING BOARD**

**November 1986**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY OF STAFF REPORT .....	1
 <b>AGENCY EVALUATION</b>	
<u>Agency Background</u> .....	5
Creation and Powers .....	5
<u>Review of Operations</u> .....	7
Evaluation of Programs .....	7



## SUMMARY

The Technology Training Board was established in 1985 and is currently active. The eight-member board is composed of representatives from the Texas Economic Development Commission, the State Job Training Coordinating Council, the board of regents of the Texas State Technical Institute, the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, and the State Board of Education. Members are selected by the respective bodies they represent.

The board was created to help develop, coordinate and plan the state's efforts in the area of technology-oriented job training. Technology training is considered to be training of individuals for employment in positions which require special skills because of the technologically advanced nature of the process or operation. The review indicated that while improved coordination and planning in this area would greatly enhance the state's ability to broaden its economic base, the Technology Training Board has not been able to accomplish its objectives and other mechanisms and initiatives are in place which can assist the state in responding to changing technological work place demands.

---

---

## RECOMMENDATION

---

---

### **1. THE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING BOARD SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.**

The need to coordinate the state's activities in the area of technology training exists and improvements in the state's ability to respond to the changing technology needs of its businesses are needed. However, the Technology Training Board has not been able to meet these needs and it is unnecessary for it to continue. Other mechanisms exist which can be called upon to carry out its functions. Finally, initiatives are currently underway to examine the state's ability to improve its technology training capability. Recommendations from three task forces, the leadership of the legislature, statewide elected officials, and other boards and committees will be made to the 70th Legislature to address the situation.



**AGENCY EVALUATION**



---

---

The review of the current operations of an agency is based on several criteria contained in the Sunset Act. The analysis made under these criteria is intended to give answers to the following basic questions:

1. Does the policy-making structure of the agency fairly reflect the interests served by the agency?
  2. Does the agency operate efficiently?
  3. Has the agency been effective in meeting its statutory requirements?
  4. Do the agency's programs overlap or duplicate programs of other agencies to a degree that presents serious problems?
  5. Is the agency carrying out only those programs authorized by the legislature?
  6. If the agency is abolished, could the state reasonably expect federal intervention or a substantial loss of federal funds?
- 
-

## **AGENCY BACKGROUND**

### **Creation and Powers**

The Technology Training Board was created in 1985 by House Bill 553 (69th Regular Legislative Session) to help coordinate and plan the state's efforts in the area of technology-oriented job training. The board is composed of eight members. Three members must be members of the Texas Economic Development Commission. Two members must be members of the Texas Job Training Coordinating Council. One member of the board of regents of the Texas State Technical Institute; the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System; and the State Board of Education are also on the Technology Training Board. Members are selected by the various boards that they represent. The chair and vice-chair of the Technology Training Board are elected by its membership. Members serve two-year terms that expire on February 1 of each odd numbered year. The executive director and staff of the Texas Economic Development Commission serve as the executive director and staff of the Technology Training Board. The Texas Economic Development Commission was allocated \$25,000 per year during the current biennium in additional funds to support the Technology Training Board. The board has met once since it was originally created.

An important factor that led to the creation of the board is that the state's technology training programs are divided among several different state agencies. Overall, some seven different state agencies have responsibility for various aspects of technology training. For example, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) administers the state's public school system and the Industrial Start-Up Program. These efforts provide many types of vocational training. The Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System has oversight responsibilities for junior colleges, community colleges and state universities. The board is also responsible for the four Texas State Technical Institute campuses. Much of the state's technology-oriented training is developed in post-secondary schools under the direction of the Coordinating Board. The Texas Department of Community Affairs (TDCA) is responsible for vocational/technical training through the state's Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program. Other agencies such as the Texas Economic Development Commission (TEDC), the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education (ACTIVE), the State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC), and the Texas Job Training Coordinating Council (TJTCC) are involved in planning, coordinating and carrying out technology training programs. The Technology Training Board was created in response to the need to develop a

more coordinated, comprehensive approach to the activities of the various programs mentioned above in the area of technology training. The review indicated that the board has not accomplished this objective, primarily due to a lack of funding, and other mechanisms and initiatives exist which can help the state better meet this goal.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

### Evaluation of Programs

The review of the Technology Training Board focused on three general areas: 1) whether the need which led to the board's creation still exists; 2) if so, whether the board has met or is likely to meet that need; and 3) whether the duties of the board could be carried out by other state agencies.

### The Technology Training Board is Not Needed.

Training is widely considered to be a very important factor in decisions by businesses to locate in a particular area, to expand plants or facilities, or upgrade obsolete facilities which would otherwise be closed. While Texas has developed programs to assist companies with their training needs, other states have more comprehensive programs. The Technology Training Board was intended to help make Texas more competitive with other states such as Massachusetts, California, Georgia and South Carolina in attracting new business investment in the state. Texas has a number of distinct and separate programs and often times two or more different state agencies combine resources on one single project. This structure tends to be more reactive than the more aggressive, proactive programs operated by some of the other states. It was hoped that the Technology Training Board would be able to develop a method of focusing widely scattered programs to create a comprehensive training product which could be marketed to individual business prospects. Unlike other states that have developed mechanisms specifically designed to provide training assistance to new or high-technology businesses, Texas has been unable to set aside significant state dollars for the operation of a single entity to perform that function. Estimates by the staff of the Texas Economic Development Commission have indicated that this type of effort in Texas would require an appropriation of at least \$250,000 per year. If Texas adopted an approach similar to the more extensive programs of some of the other states, the cost could be several million dollars. It is unlikely in times of declining state revenues that significant funding will be available for the Technology Training Board.

The review also indicated that there are several currently existing boards that have similar mandates, and whose members represent interests which are very similar to the interests represented on the Technology Training Board. The Advisory Council for Vocational Technical Education for example includes members which represent the same interests as the Technology Training Board and

is responsible for: 1) establishing a climate conducive to the development of technical, vocational, and manpower training in educational institutions to meet the needs of economic development in the state; 2) planning, recommending and evaluating vocational, technical, adult education and manpower training programs; 3) to recommend the coordination and implementation of training programs; and 4) to conduct studies and issue reports regarding the system of technical, vocational, adult education and manpower training in Texas. These responsibilities are similar to those of the Technology Training Board. In addition, the State Job Training Partnership Act established the State Job Training Coordinating Council and gave it broad responsibilities for planning, coordinating, implementing and evaluating the state's job training programs. The State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee is responsible for the collection and dissemination of all information regarding labor market needs and opportunities in the state. The Texas Economic Development Commission has a high technology division, which is responsible for staffing the Technology Training Board and provides direct and indirect assistance to individual high technology businesses.

In addition, the governor has a broad range of planning and coordinating responsibilities and can establish additional mechanisms to enhance technology training efforts in Texas as the need arises. For example, the governor is authorized by Art. 4413(32a), V.T.C.S. to establish Interagency Planning Councils to coordinate joint planning efforts in various areas of government. The governor is also authorized under the State Job Training Partnership Act to plan, coordinate, manage, and implement job training programs. Further, the governor can and has used his executive order powers to assist the state in this area. Executive Order MW-33 established the Texas Rapid Response Program to provide a coordinated response mechanism to assist businesses to react to changing technological demands. The Governor's Division of Economic Development has been charged with the responsibility of coordinating this program.

Finally, the review indicated that initiatives are currently underway to further examine ways to improve Texas' ability to respond to the needs of advanced technology businesses. These initiatives include the work of the Science and Technology Council, the Technology Industry Legislative Task Force, and the Select Committee on Higher Education, as well as the leadership of the legislature, statewide elected officials, and other state boards and committees. Recommendations from these sources are expected to address a full range of issues in many areas: funding for research, education and training; specific areas of

technology research and business on which the state should focus; ways of increasing private participation in the state's economic development efforts; and ways the state should reorganize or restructure its agencies and boards to maximize their effectiveness in broad areas of education, training, and economic development. The Technology Training Board may or may not be part of the general restructuring which may occur, but efforts to shape policy in this area should not be constrained by a board that was not created as a part of an overall state effort to improve the economic climate of the state. The board should be eliminated and its functions incorporated, as necessary, into the framework that emerges from the 70th Legislature.

- **The Technology Training Board should be abolished.**

The need to coordinate the state's activities in the area of technology training exists and improvements in the state's ability to respond to the changing technology training needs of its businesses are needed. However, the Technology Training Board has not been able to meet these needs, primarily due to a lack of funding and it is unnecessary for it to continue. Other existing mechanisms have similar mandates and can carry out its functions if called upon to do so. Finally, initiatives are currently underway to examine the state's ability to improve its technology training capability and a comprehensive series of recommendations from three task forces and other state policy makers will be made to the 70th Legislature to address the situation.

