

New, Renamed, and Abolished State Governmental Entities 80th Legislature

**Regular Session
2007**



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Foreword

Between 1997 and 2003, the Texas Legislative Council publication *Summary of Enactments* included a table to indicate statutory state agencies, interagency panels, advisory committees, and other state governmental entities that were created, restructured, or eliminated by the legislature. *New, Renamed, and Abolished State Governmental Entities* replaced the table in 2005 with an expanded format that provides more information about the affected entities.

The New Entities section provides information on each new entity that has been created. Some of these new entities are tied to the abolishment of another entity but are not considered a renaming or replacement of that entity because they have different functions and composition. An example is the Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee, which was created as part of the discontinuation of the Texas Structural Pest Control Board and the transfer of its regulatory functions to the Department of Agriculture. The Texas Structural Pest Control Board is included in the section for abolished entities with a reference to the new entity.

The Renamed Entities section provides information on each entity that received a name change and indicates whether the entity retained the same functions and composition.

The Abolished Entities section provides information on each entity that was abolished or that was discontinued because the statute creating it was repealed. If functions of the entity were transferred substantially unchanged to an already existing entity, that is noted. If functions were substantially revised and assigned to a new entity described in the New Entities section, that is noted.

For each entity included in the publication, the following information is provided:

Name—The name of the entity in the legislation. If the entity advises or is administratively attached to an agency, or if an agency appoints members or provides staff support to the entity, that agency's name appears in parentheses. For an entity that has been renamed, the previous name is indicated. For an abolished entity, if its functions are transferred, the entity that assumes those functions is also named.

Legislation—The bill and specific bill sections that contain provisions creating, renaming, or abolishing the entity and that contain other information, such as functions and composition. In some cases the entire bill is about the entity. The date the creation, renaming, or abolition of the entity becomes effective is provided. If creation of the entity is authorized instead of mandated, that is noted.

Functions—Powers and duties of the entity. For entities that have been renamed, if the functions have been revised, the functions under both the previous name and the new name are included. Information about the transfer of functions to another entity is included if applicable.

Composition—Membership information for the entity, including the number of members, appointment criteria, and terms of office. If the composition of a renamed entity has been changed, the composition of the entity under both the previous name and the new name is included.

Expiration Date—The sunset date or other expiration date included in the legislation or in the entity's statutory authorization. If the entry is "None," it means that the entity has no express statutory date to expire.

New Entities

Bexar Metropolitan Water District Oversight Committee

Legislation: House Bill 1565, Section 2.01; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Monitors the progress of the Bexar Metropolitan Water District in maintaining a rate structure that conserves water, provides adequate service to low-income customers, and assists in creating uniform rates among water utility providers in the region
- Monitors the quality of service provided by the district
- Monitors the plans by the district to provide for sustainability of water resources and plan for infrastructure needs
- Identifies regulatory and statutory barriers to achievement of the district's goals and makes recommendations to the legislature, if necessary
- Performs any other oversight function deemed appropriate by the oversight committee
- Prepares a comprehensive report to the house and senate natural resources committees on findings and recommendations concerning the district's ability to meet service and financial standards and any legislative changes needed in the district's authority or governance

Composition (5 members total):

- The senate sponsor of House Bill 1565 or, in the event that senator cannot serve, a senator appointed by the lieutenant governor
- The house author of House Bill 1565 or, in the event that representative cannot serve, a representative appointed by the speaker of the house
- 1 member with special expertise in the operation of public water utilities appointed by the governor
- 1 member appointed by the governor to represent the public
- 1 member of the Bexar County Commissioners Court who represents a precinct in which customers of the district reside

Expiration date: None

Bleeding Disorders Advisory Council, Texas (Department of State Health Services)

Legislation: Senate Bill 1566, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Studies and advises the Department of State Health Services, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Department of Insurance on issues that affect the

health and wellness of persons living with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders, including:

- Legislative or administrative changes to policies and programs that affect the health and wellness of persons with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders, including access to appropriate health insurance or similar health coverage
 - Legislative or administrative changes to policies and programs that affect product-specific reimbursement to providers, including new payment for anti-hemophilia factor and various reimbursement methodologies for anti-hemophilic factors in the Medicaid program that provide access to appropriate treatment
 - Best practices in standards of care and treatment for persons with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders
 - The establishment of community-based initiatives to disseminate information on services and related activities for persons living with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders to the medical and health care community, the academic community, primary caregivers, advocacy associations, and the public
 - The coordination of public and private support networking systems for persons living with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders and primary caregivers
- Reports findings and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house not later than December 1, 2008

Composition (up to 17 members total):

- 2 nonvoting members: the commissioner of state health services and the commissioner of insurance, or their designees
- 10 voting members appointed jointly by the commissioner of state health services and the commissioner of insurance:
 - 1 physician licensed to practice medicine in Texas under Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code, who treats individuals with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders at the time of appointment
 - 1 nurse licensed under Chapter 301, Occupations Code, who treats individuals with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders at the time of appointment
 - 1 social worker licensed under Chapter 505, Occupations Code, who treats individuals with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders at the time of appointment
 - 2 representatives of hemophilia treatment centers in Texas, at least one of which is federally funded
 - 1 representative of a health insurer or other health benefit plan issuer that holds a certificate of authority issued by the Texas Department of Insurance
 - 1 representative of a volunteer or nonprofit health organization that serves the population of Texas with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders
 - 1 person who has hemophilia or a caregiver of a person who has hemophilia

- 1 person who has a bleeding disorder other than hemophilia or a caregiver of a person who has a bleeding disorder other than hemophilia
- 1 person who has a clotting disorder or a caregiver of a person with a clotting disorder
- Additionally, the commissioner of state health services and the commissioner of insurance jointly may appoint up to 5 nonvoting members, including:
 - Persons with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders or caregivers of persons with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders
 - Persons experienced in the diagnosis, treatment, care, and support of persons with hemophilia or other bleeding or clotting disorders

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Border Security Council (Office of the Governor)

Legislation: Senate Bill 11, Section 18.01; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Develops and recommends to the office of the governor performance standards, reporting requirements, audit methods, and other procedures to ensure that funds allocated by the office for purposes related to security at or near Texas' international border are used properly and that the recipients of the funds are accountable for the proper use of the funds
- Advises the office of the governor regarding the allocation of funds by the office for purposes related to security at or near this state's international border

Composition (unspecified number of members): One-third of the members must be residents of the Texas-Mexico border region, as defined by Section 2056.002, Government Code. All members are appointed by the governor.

Expiration date: None

Breeding White-Tailed and Mule Deer, Select Interim Committee to Study the Practice of

Legislation: Senate Bill 573, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Studies the practice of breeding white-tailed and mule deer in this state, including an examination of:
 - The operation of breeding facilities in Texas
 - Whether any barriers exist that prevent the breeding industry from operating in the most efficient, effective manner
 - Whether any opportunities exist that could improve or enhance the breeding industry in Texas

- Responsibility for disease control and associated issues of liability and indemnification
- Reports findings and recommendations to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and members of the 81st Legislature not later than February 1, 2009

Composition (10 members total):

- 3 members appointed by the lieutenant governor, two of whom must be state senators and one of whom must be a nonelected individual who holds a scientific breeder's permit (under Subchapter L, Chapter 43, Parks and Wildlife Code)
- 3 members appointed by the speaker of the house, two of whom must be state representatives and one of whom must be a nonelected individual who holds a scientific breeder's permit
- 3 members appointed by the governor, one of whom must be a nonelected individual who holds a scientific breeder's permit, and two others who are not employed by a governmental entity
- 1 member appointed by the chair of the Parks and Wildlife Commission who is not employed by a governmental entity

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the committee's termination on submission of its report

Business Tax Advisory Committee (Comptroller of Public Accounts)

Legislation: House Bill 3928, Section 30; creation is effective January 1, 2008

Functions:

- Conducts a biennial study of the effects of the franchise tax on businesses in Texas, taking into consideration the following:
 - The relative share of the tax paid by industry and by size of business
 - How the incidence of the tax compares with the economic makeup of the state's business economy
 - How the tax compares in structure and in amounts paid to the business taxes imposed by other states
 - The effect of the tax on the economic climate of Texas, including the effect on capital investment and job creation
 - Any factors that result in the tax not operating as intended
 - Any other item presented by the comptroller or by a majority of the committee
- Issues a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, under procedures established by the comptroller, not later than the date each regular session of the legislature begins

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- 2 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

- 2 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- At least 7 members appointed by the comptroller:
 - At least 5 residents of the state who are engaged in a private business, as either an employee or an owner, that is subject to the franchise tax
 - At least 2 residents of the state with expertise in state business taxation

Expiration date: January 31, 2013

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Legislation: House Bill 14, Section 4; creation is effective with voter approval on November 6, 2007, of a constitutional amendment on which the bill was contingent; the Texas Cancer Council is continued in existence until a majority of the initial appointed members of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee (governing body of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas) have taken office

Functions:

- Creates and expedites innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer
- Attracts, creates, or expands research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in this state
- Works to implement the Texas Cancer Plan and continually monitors and revises the plan as necessary
- Makes grants to provide funds to public or private persons to implement the Texas Cancer Plan, and makes grants to institutions of learning and to advanced medical research facilities and collaborations in this state for related research, facilities, and programs
- Supports institutions of learning and advanced medical research facilities and collaborations in all stages in the process of finding the causes of all types of cancer in humans and developing cures
- Establishes the appropriate standards and oversight bodies to ensure the proper use of funds authorized under the legislation for cancer research and facilities development
- Issues an annual public report outlining the institute's activities, grants awarded, grants in progress, research accomplishments, and future program directions and submits the report to the governor and the legislature

Composition of the governing oversight committee (11 members total):

- 3 members appointed by the governor
- 3 members appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 3 members appointed by the speaker of the house
- The comptroller or the comptroller's designee
- The attorney general or the attorney general's designee

The members of the oversight committee must represent the geographic and cultural diversity of the state. Members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house serve four-year terms. In making appointments, the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house should attempt to include cancer survivors and family members of cancer patients if possible.

Expiration date: September 1, 2021, unless continued by the legislature under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act)

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee (Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas)

Legislation: House Bill 14, Section 4; creation is effective with voter approval on November 6, 2007, of a constitutional amendment on which the bill was contingent

Functions:

- Reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee (governing body of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas) regarding the award of research, therapy development, and clinical trial grants
- Gives priority to proposals that:
 - Could lead to immediate or long-term medical and scientific breakthroughs in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer
 - Strengthen and enhance fundamental science in cancer research
 - Ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to cancer research
 - Are interdisciplinary or interinstitutional
 - Address federal or other major research sponsors' priorities in emerging scientific or technology fields in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer
 - Are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education
 - Are collaborative between any combination of private and nonprofit entities, public or private agencies or institutions in Texas, and public or private institutions outside Texas
 - Have a demonstrable economic development benefit to the state
 - Enhance research superiority at institutions of higher education in Texas by creating new research superiority, attracting existing research superiority from institutions outside Texas and other research entities, or enhancing existing research superiority by attracting additional researchers and resources from outside Texas
 - Expedite innovation and commercialization, attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will drive a substantial increase in high-quality jobs, and increase higher education applied science or technology research capabilities

Composition (18 members total):

- 1 voting member appointed by the governor who is a physician or licensed health care professional active in the treatment of cancer
- 1 voting member appointed by the lieutenant governor who is a physician or licensed health care professional active in the treatment of cancer
- 1 voting member appointed by the speaker of the house who is a physician or licensed health care professional active in the treatment of cancer
- 1 voting member appointed by the governor who is a representative of a licensed health care facility that treats a significant number of cancer patients
- 1 voting member appointed by the lieutenant governor who is a representative of a licensed health care facility that treats a significant number of cancer patients
- 1 voting member appointed by the speaker of the house who is a representative of a licensed health care facility that treats a significant number of cancer patients
- 1 voting member appointed by the governor who is a representative of a voluntary health organization interested in cancer
- 1 voting member appointed by the lieutenant governor who is a representative of a voluntary health organization interested in cancer
- 1 voting member appointed by the speaker of the house who is a representative of a voluntary health organization interested in cancer
- 2 nonvoting members appointed by the governor representing private or independent institutions of higher education in Texas that have demonstrated success and leadership in cancer research
- 2 nonvoting ex officio members appointed by the chancellor of The University of Texas System to represent any of the following:
 - The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
 - The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
 - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
 - The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
 - The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler
 - The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 1 nonvoting ex officio member appointed by the chancellor of The Texas A&M University System to represent either of the following:
 - The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
 - The teaching hospital for The Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine
- 1 nonvoting ex officio member appointed by the chancellor of the Texas Tech University System to represent the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

- 1 nonvoting ex officio member appointed by the chancellor of the University of Houston System to represent the system
- 1 nonvoting ex officio member appointed by the chancellor of the Texas State University System to represent the system
- 1 nonvoting ex officio member appointed by the chancellor of the University of North Texas System to represent the system

The members of the committee serve four-year terms and must represent the geographic and cultural diversity of the state. Individuals appointed to the committee may be residents of another state.

Expiration date: The enabling law for the committee expires September 1, 2021, if the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is not continued by the legislature under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act)

Career and Technical Education Curriculum, Review Panel for (Texas Education Agency)

Legislation: House Bill 3485, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Reviews the career and technical education curriculum required by law and makes recommendations to the State Board of Education as necessary to increase the academic rigor of the curriculum
- Reviews the program in which high schools and articulated postsecondary institutions allow high school students to take advanced technical credit courses and makes recommendations to the State Board of Education as necessary to improve and increase participation in the program

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- Individuals who have expertise developing or administering career and technical education programs
- Employers who hire students who have obtained certification or credentials under a career and technical education program

Expiration date: September 1, 2014

Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force (Department of State Health Services)

Legislation: House Bill 1373, Section 3; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Develops a plan to educate health care professionals about the advantages and methods of early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic kidney disease and complications

related to chronic kidney disease based on the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative Clinical Practice Guidelines for Chronic Kidney Disease or other medically recognized clinical practice guidelines

- Develops a plan to educate health care professionals and individuals with chronic kidney disease about the advantages of end-stage renal disease modality education and early renal replacement therapy, including in-center dialysis, home hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis as well as other access options, and transplantation, before the onset of end-stage renal disease when kidney function is declining
- Makes recommendations on the implementation of a cost-effective plan for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic kidney disease for the state's population
- Submits findings and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house and to the presiding officers of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and the House Committee on Public Health, or the appropriate committees of the 81st Legislature, not later than January 1, 2009

Composition (17 members total):

- 13 members appointed by the governor:
 - 1 family practice physician
 - 1 pathologist
 - 1 representative from a nephrology department of a state medical school
 - 1 nephrologist in private practice
 - 2 representatives from different Texas affiliates of the National Kidney Foundation
 - 1 representative from the Department of State Health Services
 - 1 representative of a health maintenance organization or of an insurer that issues a preferred provider benefit plan
 - 1 representative of clinical laboratories
 - 1 representative of private renal care providers
 - 1 pediatrician in private practice
 - 1 kidney transplant surgeon
 - 1 representative from the Texas Renal Coalition
- 2 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 2 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Controlled Substance Monitoring System, Advisory Committee on Implementation and Enforcement of a (Department of Public Safety)

Legislation: Senate Bill 1879, Section 7; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Advises the Department of Public Safety on the implementation of Senate Bill 1879, relating to the regulation of controlled substances
- Develops recommendations regarding the improvement of the official prescription program established by Section 481.075, Health and Safety Code
- Develops recommendations regarding the implementation of an electronic controlled substance monitoring system that would be used for prescriptions of controlled substances listed in Schedules II through V as established under Subchapter B, Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code
- Develops recommendations as to which data should be provided to the Department of Public Safety to support a controlled substance monitoring system, including provider identification information
- Monitors and develops recommendations regarding the implementation and enforcement of a controlled substance monitoring system
- Develops recommended procedures necessary for real-time point-of-service access for a practitioner authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances listed in Schedules II through V so that the practitioner may obtain the prescription history for a particular patient or the practitioner's own dispensing or prescribing activity
- Develops recommended procedures that should be followed by the Department of Public Safety and the applicable licensing authority of Texas, another state, or the United States when the department shares information related to diversion of controlled substances with a licensing authority for the purpose of licensing enforcement or a licensing authority shares information related to diversion of controlled substances with the department for the purpose of criminal enforcement

Composition (11 members total):

- The public safety director of the Department of Public Safety or the director's designee
- 1 physician appointed by the governor
- 1 pharmacist appointed by the governor
- 1 physician appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 1 pharmacist appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 1 physician appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the speaker of the house
- 1 pharmacist appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the speaker of the house

- 1 member from each of the following boards:
 - Texas Medical Board
 - Texas State Board of Pharmacy
 - State Board of Dental Examiners
 - Texas Board of Nursing

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee

Legislation: Senate Bill 909, Section 13; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Provides objective research, analysis, and recommendations to help guide state criminal justice policies
- Uses statistical analyses and other research methods to conduct an in-depth examination of the criminal justice system in this state that includes:
 - An assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice system
 - An identification of critical problems in the criminal justice system
 - A determination of the long-range needs of the criminal justice system
- Recommends to the legislature strategies to solve identified problems and policy priorities to address determined long-range needs
- Advises and assists the legislature in developing plans, programs, and proposed legislation to improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system
- Submits recommendations in a report to the legislature not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year

Composition (6 members total):

- The chair of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice
- The chair of the House Committee on Corrections
- 2 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 2 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

In making appointments, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house shall give first consideration to members of the Senate Committee on Finance or the House Appropriations Committee. An appointed member of the committee serves at the pleasure of the appointing official.

Expiration date: None

Edwards Aquifer Authority Cooperative Agreement for Protection of Endangered Species, Steering Committee to Oversee the (Texas A&M University)

Legislation:

- House Bill 3, Section 2.06; creation is effective June 15, 2007
- Senate Bill 3, Section 12.06; creation is effective June 16, 2007

Functions:

- Oversees and assists in the development of a cooperative agreement between the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other appropriate federal agencies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Parks and Wildlife Department, the (Texas) Department of Agriculture, the Texas Water Development Board, and other stakeholders relating to a recovery implementation program document for aquifer withdrawal adjustments, threatened and endangered species protection, and cooperative and grant funding
- Works with Texas A&M University to hire a program director to be housed at the university and to establish and publish a regular schedule to encourage public participation in the recovery implementation program development process
- Appoints an Edwards Aquifer area expert science subcommittee to develop recommendations for withdrawal reduction levels and stages for critical period management
- Establishes a recharge facility feasibility subcommittee and other subcommittees as necessary, including a hydrology subcommittee, a community outreach and education subcommittee, and a water supply subcommittee
- Prepares and submits recommendations to the Edwards Aquifer Authority relating to critical period management

Composition (21 members total):

- 12 representatives of the following entities, appointed by the governing body of the entity:
 - the Edwards Aquifer Authority
 - the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - the Parks and Wildlife Department
 - the Texas Department of Agriculture
 - the Texas Water Development Board
 - the San Antonio Water System
 - the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
 - the San Antonio River Authority
 - the South Central Texas Water Advisory Committee

- Bexar County
- CPS Energy (San Antonio municipal utility)
- Bexar Metropolitan Water District or its successor
- 9 other members:
 - A representative of a holder of an initial regular permit issued to a retail public utility located west of Bexar County appointed by the Edwards Aquifer Authority
 - A representative of a holder of an initial regular permit issued for industrial purposes appointed by the Edwards Aquifer Authority
 - A representative of a holder of an industrial surface water right in the Guadalupe River Basin appointed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - A representative of a holder of a municipal surface water right in the Guadalupe River Basin appointed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - A representative of a retail public utility in whose service area the Comal Springs or San Marcos Springs is located
 - A representative of a holder of an initial regular permit issued for irrigation appointed by the commissioner of agriculture
 - A representative of an agricultural producer from the Edwards Aquifer region appointed by the commissioner of agriculture
 - A representative of environmental interests from the Texas Living Waters Project appointed by the governing body of that project
 - A representative of recreational interests in the Guadalupe River Basin appointed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission

Expiration date: On execution of a program development document memorandum of agreement required before December 31, 2007, between the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other appropriate federal agencies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Parks and Wildlife Department, the (Texas) Department of Agriculture, the Texas Water Development Board, and other stakeholders, the steering committee may, by majority vote of its members, add members to the steering committee, change the makeup of the committee, or dissolve the committee. If the steering committee is dissolved, the hired program director shall assume the duties of the steering committee.

Electronic Data Exchange, Technical Advisory Committee on (Texas Department of Insurance)

Legislation: House Bill 522, Section 1; creation is effective May 25, 2007

Functions:

- Advises the commissioner of insurance on technical aspects of using the transaction standards and the rules of the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange to require health benefit plan issuers and

administrators to provide access to information technology that will enable physicians and other health care providers, at the point of service, to generate a request for eligibility information that is compliant with the transaction standards

- Advises the commissioner of insurance on data elements required to be made available by health benefit plan issuers and administrators
- Makes recommendations regarding the use by health benefit plan issuers or administrators of Internet website technologies, smart card technologies, magnetic strip technologies, biometric technologies, or other information technologies to facilitate the generation of a request for eligibility information that is compliant with the transaction standards and the rules of the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange
- Recommends specific provisions that could be included in a department-issued request for information relating to electronic data exchange, including identification card programs
- Issues, by December 1, 2008, a final report to the commissioner of insurance on recommendations for implementation of electronic data exchange

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- At least one representative from each of the following groups or entities:
 - Health benefit coverage consumers
 - Physicians
 - Hospital trade associations
 - Representatives of medical units of institutions of higher education
 - Representatives of health benefit plan issuers
 - Health care providers
 - Administrators
- In addition, representatives from:
 - The Office of Public Insurance Counsel
 - The Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool
 - The Department of Information Resources

All members are appointed by the commissioner of insurance.

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the committee's termination on submission of its final report

Enterprise Resource Planning Advisory Council (Comptroller of Public Accounts)

Legislation: House Bill 3106, Section 5; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Develops a plan that contains key requirements, constraints, and alternative approaches for the comptroller's implementation of enterprise resource planning standards relating to state agency general ledgers, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, inventories, asset management, billing, payrolls, projects, grants, and human resources

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- Representatives of the Department of Information Resources appointed by the executive director of the department
- Representatives of the Health and Human Services Commission appointed by the executive commissioner of the commission
- Representatives of the Information Technology Council for Higher Education nominated by the members of the council
- Representatives of the comptroller's office appointed by the comptroller
- Representatives of two state agencies selected by the comptroller that have fewer than 100 employees, appointed by the executive head of each agency

Expiration date: None

Environmental Flows Advisory Group (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

Legislation:

- House Bill 3, Section 1.07; creation is effective September 1, 2007
- Senate Bill 3, Section 1.07; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Conducts public hearings and studies public policy implications for balancing the demands on the water resources of the state resulting from a growing population with the requirements of the riverine, bay, and estuary systems, including granting permits for instream flows dedicated to environmental needs or bay and estuary inflows, use of the Texas Water Trust, and any other issues that the advisory group determines have importance and relevance to the protection of environmental flows. The advisory group shall address:
 - Ways that the ecological soundness of riverine, bay, and estuary systems will be ensured in the water rights administration and enforcement and water allocation processes
 - Appropriate methods to encourage persons voluntarily to convert reasonable amounts of existing water rights to use for environmental flow protection temporarily or permanently

- Appoints the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee to serve as an objective scientific body to advise and make recommendations on issues relating to the science of environmental flow protection
- Appoints a basin and bay area stakeholders committee for each of several specified river basin and bay systems, to assist in the development of environmental flow regime recommendations and adoption of environmental flow standards
- Reports findings and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house not later than December 1, 2008, and every two years thereafter

Composition (9 members total):

- 3 members appointed by the governor:
 - 1 member who is a member of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - 1 member who is a member of the Texas Water Development Board
 - 1 member who is a member of the Parks and Wildlife Commission
- 3 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 3 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

A member of the advisory group serves at the will of the person who appointed the member.

Expiration date: The advisory group is abolished on the date that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adopts environmental flow standards for all of the river basin and bay systems in Texas.

Fund to Provide Reimbursement for Damages from a Builder’s Actions, Interim Committee on Creating a

Legislation: House Bill 1038, Section 52; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Conducts an interim study regarding the feasibility of creating a fund designed to reimburse aggrieved persons who experience actual damages from a builder’s actions in violation of Title 16, Property Code
- Investigates the following:
 - Potential methods for payments into the fund, procedures for managing the fund, and methods for making claims to the fund
 - Similar funds created by other states and jurisdictions of the United States and the relative successes or failures of those funds
- Submits to the speaker of the house and the members of the house of representatives, not later than September 1, 2008, the results of the study and any recommendations for statutory changes resulting from study findings

Composition (11 members total):

- The 9 members of the House Committee on State Affairs
- 2 additional members of the house of representatives who have expressed an interest in the issue, appointed by the speaker of the house, as voting adjunct members of the House Committee on State Affairs for purposes of the study

Expiration date: October 1, 2008

**Genuine Texas Program, Advisory Board on Implementation of a
(Governor's Office of Economic Development)**

Legislation: House Bill 3446, Section 1; creation is authorized, not mandated, effective September 1, 2007

Function: Advises the governor's office of economic development, at the request of the office, on the adoption of rules and the establishment of procedures relating to the administration of the Genuine Texas program to promote Texas manufactured products

Composition (unspecified number of members): Members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor's office of economic development, if the office establishes a Genuine Texas program as authorized by the legislation

Expiration date: None

**Health and Human Services Eligibility System Legislative Oversight
Committee**

Legislation: House Bill 3575, Section 2; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Reviews information with respect to the required eligibility system transition plan, and the progress made in implementing that plan, including whether the eligibility system is progressing toward achieving full functionality and meeting statutory goals
- Reviews recommendations made by the Health and Human Services Commission, the state auditor's office, and the quality assurance team regarding actions necessary to make a component of the eligibility system that is not fully functional achieve that functionality
- Makes recommendations to the legislature not later than December 1, 2008, on any legislative action necessary to support the implementation of the enhanced eligibility system in a manner that maximizes the positive effects of that implementation on the delivery of health and human services in this state
- Monitors and regularly reports to the legislature on the effectiveness and efficiency of the enhanced eligibility system once it is implemented

The oversight committee must conduct a public hearing at least once every four months.

Composition (8 members total):

- The presiding officer of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services or its successor
- The presiding officer of the House Committee on Human Services or its successor
- 2 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 2 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
- 1 additional member appointed by the governor
- The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, as an ex officio member

Expiration date: September 1, 2011

Health and Long-Term Care Insurance Incentives, Committee on

Legislation: Senate Bill 10, Section 27; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Studies and develops recommendations regarding methods by which this state may reduce:
 - The need for residents of Texas to rely on the Medicaid program, by providing incentives for employers to provide their employees health insurance, long-term care insurance, or both
 - The number of individuals in Texas who are not covered by health insurance or long-term care insurance
- Studies and develops recommendations regarding incentives the state may provide to employers to encourage them to provide health insurance, long-term care insurance, or both, to employees who otherwise would rely on the Medicaid program to meet their health and long-term care needs. In conducting the study, the committee shall:
 - Examine the feasibility and determine the cost of providing incentives through the franchise tax, deductions from or refunds of other taxes imposed on the employer, and any other means as determined by the committee
 - Determine the impact that implementing each of the studied incentives would have on reducing the number of individuals in Texas who do not have private health or long-term care insurance coverage, including individuals who are Medicaid recipients
- Studies and develops recommendations regarding:
 - The cost of health care coverage under health benefit plans and how to reduce that cost through the following or other methods: changes in health benefit plan design or scope of services covered; improvements in disease management and other utilization review practices by health care providers and health benefit plans; reductions in administrative costs incurred by health care providers and health

benefit plans; improvements in the use of health care information technology by health care providers and health benefit plans; and development of a reinsurance system for health care claims in excess of \$50,000

- The availability of health care coverage under health benefit plans and how to expand health care coverage through the following or other methods: provision of premium subsidies for health benefit plan coverage by the state or local political subdivisions, including three-share or multiple-share programs; inclusion of individuals or employees of private employers under state or local political subdivision health benefit plans, including the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool; inclusion of family members and dependents under a group health benefit plan regardless of age; and requiring vendors of state and local political subdivisions to provide health benefit plan coverage for their employees and the employee's family and dependents
- Provides information obtained from its study of the cost and availability of health care coverage to the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Insurance for purposes of developing a health benefits coverage premium payment assistance program under this legislation
- Submits a report, not later than September 1, 2008, to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Committee on Public Health, the Senate Committee on State Affairs, and the House Committee on Insurance regarding study results, including a detailed description of each incentive that is determined to be feasible, the anticipated cost associated with providing that incentive, any statutory changes needed to implement the incentive, and the impact that implementing it would have on reducing the number of individuals in the state without private health or long-term care insurance coverage and the number of individuals in this state who are Medicaid recipients

Composition (10 members total):

- The presiding officers of:
 - The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
 - The House Committee on Public Health
 - The Senate Committee on State Affairs
 - The House Committee on Insurance
- 3 public members appointed by the governor who collectively represent the diversity of businesses in Texas, including diversity with respect to the geographic regions in which those businesses are located, the types of industries in which those businesses are engaged, and the sizes of those businesses, as determined by number of employees
- 3 ex officio members:
 - The comptroller of public accounts
 - The commissioner of insurance
 - The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the committee's termination on submission of its report

Health Care-Associated Infections, Advisory Panel on (Department of State Health Services)

Legislation: Senate Bill 288, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Function: Guides the implementation, development, maintenance, and evaluation of the Texas Health Care-Associated Infection Reporting System to provide for the reporting of such infections to the Department of State Health Services by health care facilities, and for the public reporting of this information by the department and the training of health care facility staff regarding the reporting system

Composition (16 members total):

- 2 infection control professionals who are certified by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology and are practicing in hospitals in Texas, at least one of which must be a rural hospital
- 2 infection control professionals who are certified by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology and are nurses licensed to engage in professional nursing under Chapter 301, Occupations Code
- 3 board-certified or board-eligible physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in Texas under Chapter 155, Occupations Code, at least two of whom have active medical staff privileges at a hospital in the state and at least one of whom is a pediatric infectious disease physician with expertise and experience in pediatric health care epidemiology; are active members of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; and have demonstrated expertise in infection control in health care facilities
- 2 professionals in quality assessment and performance improvement, one of whom is employed by a general hospital and one of whom is employed by an ambulatory surgical center
- 1 officer of a general hospital
- 1 officer of an ambulatory surgical center
- 3 nonvoting members who are Department of State Health Services employees representing the department in epidemiology and the licensing of hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers
- 2 members who represent the public as consumers

All members are appointed by the commissioner of state health services and serve two-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Health Services Authority, Texas

Legislation: House Bill 1066, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Implements the state-level health information technology functions identified by the Texas Health Information Technology Advisory Committee by serving as a catalyst for

the development of a seamless electronic health information infrastructure to support the health care system in Texas and to improve patient safety and quality of care

- Establishes statewide health information exchange capabilities, including capabilities for electronic laboratory results, diagnostic studies, and medication history delivery
- Seeks funding to implement, promote, and facilitate the voluntary exchange of secure electronic health information between and among individuals and entities that are providing or paying for health care services or procedures
- Establishes statewide health information exchange capabilities for streamlining health care administrative functions, including the communication of laboratory results, diagnostic imaging, prescription histories, other point of care services, patient identification and emergency room information, health plan enrollee status and cost-sharing responsibilities, and census and status information concerning health plan contracted providers
- Supports regional health information exchange initiatives by identifying data and messaging standards for health information exchange, providing technical expertise, and sharing intellectual property, among other actions
- Identifies standards for streamlining health care administrative functions across payors and providers, including electronic patient registration, communication of enrollment in health plans, and information at the point of care regarding services covered by health plans
- Supports the secure, electronic exchange of health information through other strategies identified by the authority's board of directors
- Submits an annual report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and appropriate house and senate oversight committees that includes financial information and a progress update on efforts to carry out the authority's mission

Composition of board of directors (11 members total):

- Voting members, who represent consumers, clinical laboratories, health benefit plans, hospitals, regional health information exchange initiatives, pharmacies, physicians, or rural health providers, or who possess expertise in any other area the governor finds necessary for the successful operation of the authority
- At least 2 nonvoting ex officio members who represent the Department of State Health Services

All members of the board of directors are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Members serve two-year terms.

Expiration date: September 1, 2011, unless continued by the legislature under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act)

High School Completion and Success Initiative Council (Texas Education Agency)

Legislation: House Bill 2237, Section 14; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Identifies strategic priorities for and makes recommendations to improve the effectiveness, coordination, and alignment of high school completion and college and workforce readiness efforts
- Adopts a strategic plan to:
 - Specify strategies to identify, support, and expand programs to improve high school completion rates and college and workforce readiness
 - Establish specific goals with which to measure the success of those strategies in improving high school completion rates and college and workforce readiness
 - Identify strategies for alignment and coordination of federal and other funding sources that may be pursued for high school reform, dropout prevention, and preparation of students for postsecondary coursework or employment
 - Identify key objectives for appropriate research and program evaluation conducted as provided by the legislation
- Based on the adopted strategic plan, makes recommendations to the commissioner of education or the commissioner of higher education, as applicable, for the use of federal and state funds appropriated or received for high school reform, college readiness, and dropout prevention, including key elements of program design, criteria for awarding grants and evaluating programs, program funding priorities, and program evaluation

Composition (9 members):

- The commissioner of education
- The commissioner of higher education
- 7 members appointed by the commissioner of education, including:
 - 3 members from a list of nominations provided by the governor
 - 2 members from a list of nominations provided by the lieutenant governor
 - 2 members from a list of nominations provided by the speaker of the house

In making nominations to the commissioner of education, the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house must nominate persons who have distinguished experience in developing and implementing high school reform strategies and promoting college and workforce readiness. Members of the council serve two-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Independent Ombudsman of the Texas Youth Commission, Office of

Legislation: Senate Bill 103, Section 57; creation is effective June 8, 2007; the office is a state agency and acts independently of the Texas Youth Commission

Functions:

- Investigates, evaluates, and secures the rights of the children committed to the Texas Youth Commission, including a child released under supervision before final discharge

- Submits on a quarterly basis to the governor, lieutenant governor, state auditor, and each member of the legislature a report that is both aggregated and disaggregated by individual facility and describes:
 - The work of the independent ombudsman
 - The results of any review or investigation undertaken by the independent ombudsman, including reviews or investigation of services contracted by the commission
 - Any recommendations that the independent ombudsman has in relation to the duties of the independent ombudsman
- Immediately reports to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, state auditor, and the office of the inspector general of the commission any particularly serious or flagrant case of abuse or injury of a child committed to the commission, problem concerning the administration of a commission program or operation, problem concerning the delivery of services in a facility operated by or under contract with the commission, and interference by the commission with an investigation conducted by the office
- Promotes awareness among the public and the children committed to the commission of how the office may be contacted, the purpose of the office, and the services the office provides

Composition: The independent ombudsman is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for a term of two years, except that the executive commissioner of the Texas Youth Commission makes the initial appointment for a term expiring February 1, 2009. A person appointed as independent ombudsman is eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than three terms in that capacity.

Expiration date: None. The office is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but is not abolished under that chapter. The office shall be reviewed during the periods in which state agencies abolished in 2009 and every 12th year after 2009 are reviewed.

Judicial Compensation Commission (Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System)

Legislation: House Bill 3199, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions: Issues a biennial report to the legislature not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year on recommendations for the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals, the courts of appeals, and the district courts, in consideration of the following factors:

- The skill and experience required of the particular judgeship
- The value of compensable service performed by justices and judges, as determined by reference to judicial compensation in other states and the federal government
- The value of comparable service performed in the private sector, including private judging, arbitration, and mediation

- The compensation of attorneys in the private sector
- The cost of living and changes in the cost of living
- The compensation from the state presently received by other public officials in the state, including state constitutional officeholders; deans, presidents, and chancellors of the public university systems; and city attorneys in major metropolitan areas for which that information is readily available
- Other factors that are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in the determination of judicial compensation
- The level of overall compensation adequate to attract the most highly qualified individuals in the state, from a diversity of life and professional experiences, to serve in the judiciary without unreasonable economic hardship and with judicial independence unaffected by financial concerns

Composition (9 members total): All members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, and serve six-year terms. Each member must be a registered voter of the state, and a member may not hold any other public office or be an employee of any other state department, agency, board, or commission during the member's tenure. No more than three members may be licensed to practice law in Texas.

Expiration date: None

Licensing Standards, Committee on (Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: Senate Bill 758, Section 30; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Reviews and analyzes information provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services and committee members and makes recommendations for policy and statutory changes relating to licensing standards and facility inspections, including the analysis of:
 - The deaths of children who are in substitute care, including reports and findings of child fatality review teams under Subchapter F, Chapter 264, Family Code
 - The types of licensing violations for each weighted risk and region
 - The details of administrative reviews and appeals
 - The type of technical assistance provided and the qualifications of those providing technical assistance
- Reports findings and recommendations to the department and the legislature not later than December 1 of each year

Composition (7 members total):

- 1 member who operates a residential child-care facility licensed by the Department of Family and Protective Services
- 1 member who operates a child-placing agency licensed by the department

- 1 member who operates a licensed child-care facility that provides care for children for less than 24 hours a day
- 1 member who is a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who uses a facility licensed by the department
- 1 member who is an expert in the field of child care and child development
- 2 members employed by the department who work with facilities licensed by the department

All members are appointed by the governor and serve two-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Lung Cancer Advisory Council (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: House Bill 14, Section 2; creation is effective with voter approval on November 6, 2007, of the constitutional amendment establishing the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Function: Develops a standardized written summary, in language a patient can understand, of the advantages, disadvantages, risks, and descriptions of all medically efficacious and viable alternatives for the treatment of lung cancer

Composition (3 members total):

- 1 member who is a physician active in the treatment of lung cancer
- 1 member who is an advocate for lung cancer patients
- 1 member of the public who is a survivor of lung cancer

All members are appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the advisory council's termination on development of the summary. The Department of State Health Services is charged with updating the summary annually, if necessary, to reflect changes in the treatment of lung cancer.

Manufactured Housing Installation, Rules Advisory Committee on (Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs)

Legislation: House Bill 1460, Section 34; creation is effective January 1, 2008

Function: Reviews any proposed rules for installation of manufactured housing proposed by the Manufactured Housing Board within the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and reports to the board with comments or concerns

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- Manufactured housing manufacturers
- Manufactured housing installers

- Manufacturers of stabilization systems or devices

All members are appointed by the Manufactured Housing Board. At least one must be an engineer.

Expiration date: None

Medicaid Cost Reporting and Auditing Process Work Group (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: House Bill 2540, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions: Reports to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and is responsible for:

- Developing and proposing cost report forms and processes, audit processes, and rules necessary to implement a pilot project to simplify, streamline, and reduce costs associated with the Medicaid cost reporting and auditing process for private intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded and home and community-based services waiver program providers
- Developing a plan for monitoring the pilot project's implementation and recommendations for improving and expanding the pilot project to other Medicaid programs
- Establishing an implementation date for the pilot project that allows the Health and Human Services Commission to have sufficient information related to the pilot project for purposes of preparing the commission's legislative appropriations request for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2009
- Monitoring wage levels of the direct-care staff of providers to assess the value and need for minimum spending levels
- Submitting a quarterly report to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, senate finance committee, and house appropriations committee regarding the status of the pilot project

Composition (unspecified number of members): The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint the members and ensure that the work group includes representatives of the following:

- Public sector and other providers of private intermediate care facilities for mentally retarded (ICF-MR) services and home and community-based waiver program services
- Experienced cost report preparers who have received cost report training from the Health and Human Services Commission
- Accounting firms licensed under Chapter 901, Occupations Code, that are familiar with the provision of ICF-MR services and community-based waiver program services
- Health and Human Services Commission staff
- Other interested stakeholders, as determined by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission

Expiration date: September 1, 2013

Medicaid Reform Legislative Oversight Committee

Legislation: Senate Bill 10, Section 30; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Facilitates Medicaid reform efforts, the process of addressing issues of uncompensated hospital care, and the establishment of programs addressing the uninsured
- Facilitates the design and development of any Medicaid waivers needed to affect reform as directed by Senate Bill 10
- Facilitates a smooth transition from existing Medicaid payment systems and benefit designs to the new model of Medicaid enabled by waiver or policy change by the Health and Human Services Commission
- Researches, takes public testimony, and issues reports requested by the lieutenant governor or speaker of the house
- Reports to the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house not later than November 15, 2008, on the committee's findings, including:
 - Identification of significant issues that impede the transition to a more effective Medicaid program
 - Measures of effectiveness associated with changes to the Medicaid program
 - The impact of Medicaid changes on safety net hospitals and other significant traditional providers
 - The impact on the uninsured in Texas

Composition (8 members total):

- 4 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 4 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Narrow Therapeutic Index Drugs, Joint Committee to Recommend (Texas State Board of Pharmacy)

Legislation: Senate Bill 625, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Recommends to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy a list of narrow therapeutic index drugs that may be refilled only by using the same drug product by the same manufacturer that the pharmacist last dispensed under the prescription, unless otherwise agreed to by the prescribing practitioner
- Recommends rules, if any, by which the law governing narrow therapeutic index drugs applies to the listed drugs

Composition (unspecified number of members): An equal number of members from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and the Texas Medical Board

Expiration date: None

Obesity Council, Interagency

Legislation: Senate Bill 556, Section 1; creation is effective June 16, 2007

Functions:

- Meets at least once a year to:
 - Discuss the status of Department of Agriculture, Department of State Health Services, and Texas Education Agency programs that promote better health and nutrition and prevent obesity among children and adults in Texas
 - Consider the feasibility of tax incentives for employers who promote activities designed to reduce obesity in the workforce
- Submits a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, not later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year, on the activities of the council during the preceding two calendar years, including:
 - A list of the programs within each agency that are designed to promote better health and nutrition
 - An assessment of the steps taken by each program during the preceding two calendar years
 - A report of the progress made by taking these steps in reaching each program's goals
 - Areas of improvement that are needed in each program
 - Recommendations for future goals or legislation

Composition (3 members total): The following commissioners or their staff designees:

- The commissioner of agriculture
- The commissioner of state health services
- The commissioner of education

Expiration date: None

Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board, Texas (Department of Agriculture)

Legislation: House Bill 2345, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Assists the Department of Agriculture in:
 - Assessing the state of the organic agricultural products industry in Texas

- Developing recommendations to the commissioner of agriculture and to the legislature to promote and expand the organic agricultural products industry in Texas
- Identifying and obtaining grants and gifts to promote and expand the organic agricultural products industry in Texas
- Developing a statewide organic agricultural products education and awareness campaign
- Reviews and provides guidance on rules impacting the organic agricultural products industry in Texas

Composition (13 members total):

- 4 members who produce organic agricultural products
- 2 members who are retail sellers of organic agricultural products
- 1 member who distributes organic agricultural products
- 1 member who processes organic agricultural products
- 1 member who represents a Texas trade association that represents the organic agricultural industry
- 1 member who represents the Texas Cooperative Extension
- 1 technical advisor member who is employed by an institution of higher education or government agency as a researcher or instructor in the field of organic agriculture products or sustainable agriculture or who has technical expertise in soil biology, agronomy, entomology, horticulture, or organic farming systems
- 1 member who represents the public
- 1 representative from the Department of Agriculture

All members are appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and serve four-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Pain Treatment Review Committee

Legislation: Senate Bill 1879, Section 6; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Studies the relevant provisions of Texas law that relate to the administration of prescription medication, controlled substances, and the needs of patients for effective pain control and management
- Examines how the following statutes affect public health needs, the professional medical community, and persons affected by acute, chronic, or end-of-life pain:
 - Chapter 107, Occupations Code (Intractable Pain Treatment Act)

- Subtitles B, E, I, and J of Title 3, Occupations Code (Medical Practice Act and regulation of nursing, psychology and counseling, and pharmacy)
- Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code (Texas Controlled Substances Act)
- Reports recommendations to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and the appropriate standing committees in the senate and house not later than September 1, 2008

Composition (16 members total):

- The attorney general or the attorney general's designee
- 10 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the lieutenant governor and 5 of whom are appointed by the speaker of the house:
 - 1 physician who practices at a public hospital in Texas
 - 1 physician who practices at a private hospital in Texas
 - 1 physician who practices in Texas as a psychiatrist specializing in the treatment of addictive diseases
 - 1 probate court judge licensed to practice law in Texas
 - 1 member of the governing board of the American Cancer Society, Texas Division, or the member's designee
 - 1 member of the governing board of the Texas Medical Association or the member's designee
 - 1 member of the governing board of the Texas Nurses Association or the member's designee
 - 1 officer of a public hospital in Texas who is a member of the governing board of the Texas Hospital Association or the member's designee
 - 1 officer of a private hospital in Texas who is a member of the governing board of the Texas Hospital Association or the member's designee
 - 1 public member who is a Texas resident
- 5 nonvoting resource members appointed by the executive director of the agency the member represents:
 - 1 pharmacist member of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy
 - 1 physician member of the Texas Medical Board
 - 1 nurse member of the Texas Board of Nursing
 - 1 representative of the Department of Aging and Disability Services
 - 1 representative of the narcotics regulatory programs of the Department of Public Safety

Expiration date: July 1, 2009

Pediatric Centers of Excellence Relating to Abuse and Neglect, Committee on (Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: Senate Bill 758, Section 21; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Develops guidelines for designating regional pediatric centers of excellence that:
 - Provide medical expertise to children who are suspected victims of abuse and neglect
 - Assist the Department of Family and Protective Services in evaluating and interpreting the medical findings for children who are suspected victims of abuse and neglect
- Develops recommended procedures and protocols for physicians, nurses, hospitals, and other health care providers to follow in evaluating suspected cases of child abuse and neglect
- Recommends methods to finance the centers of excellence and services described by Senate Bill 758
- Reports findings and recommendations to the department and the legislature not later than December 1, 2008

Composition (10 members total):

- 1 representative of the attorney general's office
- 1 representative of the Department of State Health Services
- 1 representative of the Department of Family and Protective Services
- 1 representative of the Health and Human Services Commission
- 1 representative of a child advocacy center
- 3 pediatricians who specialize in treating victims of child abuse
- 1 representative from a children's hospital
- 1 representative of a medical school with expertise in forensic consultation

All members are appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission. If there is a medical director for the Department of Family and Protective Services, the executive commissioner shall appoint the medical director to be the department's representative on the committee.

Expiration date: January 1, 2010

Prepayment Funding Agreements for Relocation of Utility Facilities on State Highways, Rules Advisory Committee on (Texas Department of Transportation)

Legislation: Senate Bill 1209, Section 2; creation is effective May 17, 2007

Function: Advises the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Transportation Commission on the development of rules relating to a prepayment funding agreement for a relocation of a utility facility that is required by the improvement of a state highway system segment, including a turnpike or toll project

Composition (unspecified number of members): Representatives of interested utilities appointed by the Texas Transportation Commission

Expiration date: September 1, 2013

Private Participation in Toll Projects, Legislative Study Committee on

Legislation: Senate Bill 792, Section 3.01; creation is effective June 11, 2007

Functions:

- Conducts public hearings and studies the public policy implications of including, in a comprehensive development agreement entered into by a toll project entity with a private participant in connection with a toll project, a provision that permits the private participant to operate and collect revenue from the toll project
- Examines the public policy implications of selling an existing and operating toll project to a private entity
- Prepares a written report for the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house not later than December 1, 2008, summarizing any hearings conducted by the committee, any legislation proposed by the committee, the committee's recommendations for safeguards and protections of the public's interest when a contract for the sale of a toll project to a private entity is entered into, and any other findings or recommendations of the committee

Composition (9 members total):

- 3 members appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 3 members appointed by the speaker of the house
- 3 members appointed by the governor

Expiration date: December 31, 2008

Provider Network Health Benefit Plans, Advisory Committee on the Adequacy of Facility-Based (Texas Department of Insurance)

Legislation: Senate Bill 1731, Section 11; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Studies the adequacy of health benefit plan facility-based provider networks
- Periodically and not later than December 1, 2008, advises the following about findings: the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house, the commissioner of insurance, and the chairs of the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives that have primary jurisdiction over health benefit plans

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- 1 or more physician representatives
- 1 or more hospital representatives
- 1 or more health benefit plan representatives, to equal the total number of physician and hospital representatives
- 1 representative each from associations representing physicians, hospitals, and health benefit plans

All members are appointed by the commissioner of insurance.

Expiration date: January 1, 2009

Public School Accountability, Select Committee on

Legislation: Senate Bill 1031, Section 7; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Conducts a comprehensive review of the public school accountability system, including a thorough study of:
 - The mission, organizational structure, design, processes, and practices of similar accountability systems in other states and the requirements established by federal law
 - Each element of the accountability system prescribed by Chapter 39, Education Code
 - The extent to which the accountability system is aligned with the requirements prescribed by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
 - The extent to which the accountability system reflects the public education mission, objectives, and goals provided by Chapter 4, Education Code
 - The extent to which the accountability system meets public expectations
 - The extent to which the accountability system fairly and accurately reports the effectiveness of educators, instructional programs, support services, and financial expenditures and the impact of these elements on student achievement
 - The methods available to monitor the progress of each public school student, with special emphasis on methods to monitor demonstrable growth in academic achievement
 - The performance indicators that would successfully measure the effectiveness of the campus teaching and learning environment, including the effect of student discipline on that environment
 - The effectiveness of the accountability system in reporting the performance of open-enrollment charter schools and alternative education programs
 - The implementation of statewide assessment instruments, including specifically end-of-course assessment instruments

- The extent to which the accountability system measures the performance of districts and campuses on important indicators and aspects of the educational process, other than student scores on standardized assessment instruments
- The extent to which the accountability system clearly and accurately reports to parents and interested persons the overall performance of districts and campuses
- The extent to which the accountability system considers the different student demographics of districts and campuses
- Conducts public hearings throughout the state and solicits testimony about the accountability system from parents of public school children and other interested persons
- Provides findings and recommendations in a report not later than December 1, 2008

Composition (15 members total):

- The presiding officers of the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public education
- 1 member of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
- The commissioner of education
- The commissioner of higher education
- 1 public school teacher, 1 public school principal, and 1 public school district superintendent, each currently employed in Texas and each appointed jointly by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house
- 2 persons, each currently employed as an educator in a public school in Texas and each appointed jointly by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
- 1 representative from the business community or the public appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 1 representative from the business community or the public appointed by the speaker of the house
- 2 representatives from the business community and the public, at least one of whom has one or more children who currently attend public school in Texas, appointed by the governor

Expiration date: January 13, 2009

Real Estate Educational Programs Review Committee (Texas Real Estate Commission)

Legislation: Senate Bill 914, Section 16; creation is authorized, but not mandated, effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Reviews the performance of real estate educational programs performing below the standards for accreditation set by the Texas Real Estate Commission, excluding programs offered by accredited colleges and universities
- Reviews and evaluates any factor causing an educational program's poor performance and reports findings and recommendations to improve performance to the program and to the commission

A committee formed under this legislation may not revoke the accreditation of an educational program.

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- At least one member of the Texas Real Estate Commission
- At least one member of the Texas Real Estate Commission staff
- Individuals licensed under Chapter 1101 or 1102, Occupations Code
- A representative from the Texas Real Estate Research Center

All members are appointed by the Texas Real Estate Commission.

Expiration date: None

Real Property Advisory Committee (Adjutant General's Department)

Legislation: Senate Bill 1724, Section 8; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Advises the adjutant general on:

- The facility master plan
- The future year defense plan
- The long range construction plan
- The selection of architecture and engineering firms
- Requests for bonding authority for state military facilities
- The disposal or sale of department property
- Surface leases of department property
- Natural resources management plans
- Environmental studies and agreements

Composition (7 members total):

- 2 assistant adjutants general
- 5 public members who are not actively serving in the Texas National Guard and who have experience in architecture, construction management, engineering, property management, real estate services, or real property law

Members of the advisory committee are appointed by and serve at the will of the adjutant general.

Expiration date: None

Regional Health Care Systems Review Committee (for Public Health Region Three)

Legislation: House Bill 3154, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Conducts public hearings regarding, and studies the implications of, implementing regional health care service to address indigent health care in public health region three as established by the Department of State Health Services, including:
 - Examining whether a regional system to provide indigent health care should be offered throughout the region
 - Examining whether there should be a mechanism for additional counties to participate in the regional health care system
 - Performing a review of funding and financing options, including a review of funding indigent health care in the region
- Issues a summary report with findings and recommendations not later than September 1, 2008, and submits a copy of the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- Each member of the legislature who represents a district that contains territory in public health region three
- Each county commissioner of a county located in the region
- Each county judge in the region
- The chief executive officer of each public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospital system in the region

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Residential Energy Efficiency Study, Advisory Committee on the (State Energy Conservation Office in the Comptroller's Office)

Legislation: House Bill 3070, Section 1; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Directs the focus of a state energy conservation office study on methods for introducing information into the residential real property marketplace regarding the energy efficiency of residential real property

Composition (unspecified number of members): The membership includes representatives of:

- State and local government agencies involved in residential housing programs

- Builders
- Organizations that develop and adopt uniform building codes
- Organizations that study and develop techniques and standards to enhance energy efficiency
- Utilities
- Real estate agents
- Mortgage lenders
- Financial agencies involved in mortgage markets
- Representatives from any other appropriate industry or other interested members of the public, as determined by the state energy conservation office

All members are appointed by the state energy conservation office.

Expiration date: August 31, 2009

Residential Mortgage Fraud Task Force (Office of the Attorney General)

Legislation: House Bill 716, Section 2; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Focuses on the intergovernmental sharing of information and resources to successfully enforce administrative and criminal actions against perpetrators of mortgage fraud
- Submits an annual report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house on the progress of each member agency in accomplishing the purposes of the task force

Composition (8 members total): The following persons or their appointees:

- Attorney general
- Consumer credit commissioner
- Banking commissioner
- Credit union commissioner
- Commissioner of insurance
- Savings and mortgage lending commissioner
- Presiding officer of the Texas Real Estate Commission
- Presiding officer of the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board

The task force may request assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Expiration date: None

Sales Tax on Sporting Goods, Joint Legislative Task Force on Use of the

Legislation: House Bill 12, Section 56; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Functions:

- Reviews the items that are included in the definition of “sporting goods” under Section 151.801(e), Tax Code
- Determines the amount of sales tax revenue that must be generated from the sale of such sporting goods to fund, at a minimum, the appropriations made by the 80th Legislature regarding state parks, local parks, historic sites, coastal management programs, and water planning
- Prepares and presents a report to the legislature not later than December 15, 2008, that describes the findings of the task force and includes recommendations regarding the specific items that should be included in the definition of “sporting goods” under Section 151.801(e), Tax Code, in order to more evenly match the revenue streams needed to cover ongoing appropriations, net of the use of unexpended balances in the 2008-2009 biennium, without creating large dedicated fund balances

Composition (8 members total):

- 2 members of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, including the chair of the committee and another member appointed by the speaker of the house
- 2 members, each of whom must be a member of the House Committee on Appropriations or the House Committee on Ways and Means, appointed by the speaker of the house
- 2 members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, including the chair of the committee and another member appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 2 members of the Senate Committee on Finance appointed by the lieutenant governor

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the task force’s termination on submission of its report

Severe Storm Research and Planning Center, Advisory Committee on Implementation of the (certain coastal regional planning agency)

Legislation: House Bill 1493, Section 1; creation is effective June 15, 2007

Function: Advises the regional planning commission, council of governments, or similar regional planning agency whose membership includes the most populous county bordering on the Gulf of Mexico or on a bay or inlet of the Gulf of Mexico regarding the development of priorities, guidelines, and procedures for the implementation of a severe storm research and planning center

Composition (unspecified number of members): The membership includes representatives of:

- Rice University
- The University of Houston

- The University of Texas at Austin
- Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M University at Galveston
- Texas Southern University
- The University of Texas at Brownsville
- Regional planning commissions, councils of governments, or similar regional planning agencies whose membership includes a municipality or county located in the Gulf Coast Region
- Engineering and construction firms associated with public works contracts
- The medical profession in a major urban area located in the Gulf Coast Region

All members are appointed by the coastal regional planning agency described above.

Expiration date: None

Sexual Assault Advisory Council

Legislation: House Bill 1751, Section 7; creation is effective January 1, 2008

Functions:

- Serves as an information clearinghouse and informal coordinator of existing and future sexual assault programming efforts at state and local levels
- Reports to the governor and the 81st Legislature the results of actions taken by the 80th Legislature on any gaps with respect to research, prevention, response and other victims' services, adjudication, and incarceration at state and local levels
- Develops recommendations for appropriate performance measures that enable the governor and the legislature to biennially assess and respond to the status of sexual assault in Texas
- Reports to the 81st Legislature on the effectiveness of appropriations made by the 80th Legislature for sexual assault programs

Composition (unspecified number of members): Representatives designated by the attorney general from state agencies that receive sexual assault-related appropriations in the General Appropriations Act

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the council's termination on submission of its report

Special Prosecution Unit

Legislation: Senate Bill 103, Section 14; creation is effective June 8, 2007

Function: Cooperates with and supports prosecuting attorneys in prosecuting a criminal offense or delinquent conduct committed on property owned or operated by or under contract

with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Youth Commission or committed by or against a person in the custody of the department or commission while the person is performing a duty away from department or commission property

Composition:

- The unit is governed by a board of directors composed of each prosecuting attorney who represents the state in criminal matters before a court in a county in which one or more facilities owned or operated by or under contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Youth Commission are located
- The board of directors is governed by an executive board composed of 11 members elected by the membership of the board of directors on a majority vote from among that membership
- The executive board, on a majority vote, shall elect a counselor to monitor each case involving an offense or delinquent conduct, as described above, that concerns the Texas Youth Commission

Expiration date: None

State Water Funding, Joint Interim Committee on

Legislation: Senate Bill 3, Section 5.01; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Meets at least annually with the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board to:
 - Receive information on water infrastructure needs as identified in the state water plan
 - Receive information on infrastructure cost and funding options to be used by local entities to meet the needs identified in the state water plan
 - Receive analyses of the funding gap and recommendations on how to address those funding needs
 - Receive information on whether all water fees assessed are sufficient to support required regulatory water-related state program functions and activities
 - Identify viable, sustainable, dedicated revenues and fee sources, or increases to existing revenue and fees, to support state water programs and to provide for natural resources data collection and dissemination, financial assistance programs, and water resources planning, including funding to implement water management strategies in the state water plan
- Reports to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house not later than December 1, 2008, on the committee's activities and recommendations for legislation to address funding needs to support the state's water programs and water infrastructure needs

Composition (8 members total):

- The chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
- The chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources
- 3 members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 3 members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the committee's termination on submission of its report

Statewide Procurement Advisory Council (Comptroller of Public Accounts)

Legislation: House Bill 3560, Section 1.08; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions: The comptroller shall adopt rules describing the purpose and tasks of the council, pursuant to state law on the creation of state agency advisory committees. A quorum of the council shall:

- Attend each meeting in which the chief clerk of the comptroller awards a contract that is reasonably expected by the comptroller at the time of the award to have a value of \$100,000 or more over the life of the contract
- Make recommendations and advise the chief clerk at such a meeting in a manner consistent with the established purpose and tasks of the council

Composition (4 members total):

- 1 member appointed by the governor
- 1 member appointed by the Texas Facilities Commission
- 1 member appointed by the Department of Information Resources
- 1 member appointed by the Legislative Budget Board

Expiration date: None

Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee (Department of Agriculture)

Legislation: House Bill 2458, Section 1.06; creation is effective September 1, 2007; the Texas Structural Pest Control Board is continued in existence until March 1, 2008, for the sole purpose of transferring obligations, and its regulatory functions are transferred to the Department of Agriculture

Functions:

- Gathers and provides information relating to the practice of structural pest control at the request of the Department of Agriculture or the commissioner of agriculture
- Advises the department and the commissioner on:

- The education and curricula requirements for applicants
- The content of examinations
- Proposed rules and standards on technical issues related to structural pest control and rules related to enforcement
- Standards and criteria for the issuance of licenses
- Fees for license applications and examinations
- Other issues affecting the practice of structural pest control

Composition (9 members total):

- 2 members who are experts in structural pest control application
- 3 members who represent the public
- 1 member from an institution of higher education who is knowledgeable in the science of pests and pest control
- 1 member who represents the interests of structural pest control operators and who is appointed based on recommendations provided by a trade association of operators
- 1 member who represents the interests of consumers and who is appointed based on recommendations provided by consumer advocacy groups or associations
- The commissioner of state health services or the commissioner's designee

All members are appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and serve four-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Towing and Storage Advisory Board (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

Legislation: House Bill 2094, Section 1.12; creation is effective September 1, 2007; the legislation abolishes the Tow Truck Rules Advisory Committee and transfers licensing and regulation of towing and vehicle storage from the Texas Department of Transportation to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Function: Provides advice and recommendations to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation on technical matters relevant to the administration and enforcement of vehicle towing regulation, including examination content, licensing standards, and continuing education requirements

Composition (8 members total):

- 1 representative of a towing company operating in a county with a population of less than one million
- 1 representative of a towing company operating in a county with a population of one million or more
- 1 owner of a vehicle storage facility located in a county with a population of less than one million

- 1 owner of a vehicle storage facility located in a county with a population of one million or more
- 1 parking facility owner
- 1 law enforcement officer from a county with a population of less than one million
- 1 law enforcement officer from a county with a population of one million or more
- 1 representative of property and casualty insurers who write automobile insurance in Texas

All members are appointed by the presiding officer of the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation with the approval of the commission and serve six-year terms. The advisory board must include representation for each classification of towing.

Expiration date: None

Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Program Advisory Committee (The University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office)

Legislation: Senate Bill 415, Section 4; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Advises The University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office on the Type 2 diabetes risk assessment program and submits related recommendations not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year
- Recommends who should be responsible for conducting Type 2 diabetes risk assessment activities for schools that do not employ a school nurse
- Advises the office on the age groups that would benefit most from Type 2 diabetes risk assessment activities
- Recommends a method to record and report the number of children who are identified in the risk assessment process as being at risk for having or developing Type 2 diabetes and who qualify for the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under federal law
- Recommends a deadline by which the office shall implement the advisory committee's recommended risk assessment activities, surveillance methods, reports, and quality improvements
- Contributes to the state plan for diabetes treatment developed by the Texas Diabetes Council by providing statistics and information on Type 2 diabetes risk assessment activities and recommendations for assisting children in this state at risk for developing Type 2 diabetes
- Recommends any additional information that should be included in the report the office is required to submit to the governor and the legislature each odd-numbered year relating to the implementation and effectiveness of the Type 2 diabetes risk assessment program

Composition (13 members):

- The following representatives appointed by the executive director of The University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office:
 - 1 representative of the office
 - 1 representative of the Texas Education Agency
 - 1 representative of the Texas Pediatric Society
 - 1 representative of the American Diabetes Association
 - 1 representative who is a member of the board of regents of The University of Texas-Pan American
 - 1 school nurse representative from an urban school located within the boundaries of a regional education service center
 - 1 parent or guardian of a child who resides within the boundaries of a regional education service center
 - 1 person with knowledge and experience in health care in school settings
- The following representatives appointed by the chairman of the Texas Diabetes Council:
 - 1 representative of the council
 - 1 representative of the Texas Medical Association
 - 1 school district administrator representative from a school district located within the boundaries of a regional education service center
 - 1 school principal representative from a school district located within the boundaries of a regional education service center
 - 1 school nurse representative from a rural school located within the boundaries of a regional education service center

Expiration date: None

Uncompensated Hospital Care, Work Group on (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: Senate Bill 10, Section 8; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions: Assists the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission in developing rules, to be adopted not later than January 1, 2009, relating to uncompensated hospital care by studying and advising the executive commissioner in:

- Identifying the number of different reports required to be submitted to the state that address uncompensated hospital care, care for low-income uninsured persons in Texas, or both
- Standardizing the definitions used to determine uncompensated hospital care for purposes of those reports

- Improving the tracking of hospital charges, costs, and adjustments as those charges, costs, and adjustments relate to identifying uncompensated hospital care and maintaining a hospital's tax-exempt status
- Developing and applying a standard set of adjustments to a hospital's initial computation of the cost of uncompensated hospital care that account for all funding streams that are not patient-specific and are used to offset the hospital's initially computed amount of uncompensated care
- Developing a standard and comprehensive center for data analysis and reporting with respect to uncompensated hospital care
- Analyzing the effect of the standardization of the definition of uncompensated hospital care and the computation of its cost, as determined in accordance with the rules adopted by the executive commissioner, on the laws of this state, and analyzing potential legislation to incorporate the changes made by this standardization

Composition (unspecified number of members): The executive commissioner shall ensure that the work group includes representatives from the office of the attorney general and the hospital industry

Expiration date: None stated, but the nature of the charge implies the work group's termination once the Health and Human Services Commission adopts rules on uncompensated hospital care

Water Conservation Advisory Council (Texas Water Development Board)

Legislation:

- House Bill 4, Section 3; creation is effective June 15, 2007
- Senate Bill 3, Section 2.03; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Provides the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, legislature, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation
- Monitors trends in water conservation implementation
- Monitors new technologies for possible inclusion by the Texas Water Development Board as best management practices in the best management practices guide developed by the water conservation implementation task force
- Monitors the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program
- Develops and implements a state water management resource library
- Develops and implements a public recognition program for water conservation

- Monitors the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitors target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Submits a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, on progress made in water conservation in Texas
- Submits a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, not later than December 1, 2008, on findings and recommendations relating to a study to evaluate the desirability of requiring the Texas Water Development Board to designate certified water conservation training facilities and give preference to those facilities in making loans or grants for water conservation training and education activities

Composition (23 members total): One representative from each of the following entities or interest groups:

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Department of Agriculture
- Parks and Wildlife Department
- State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Texas Water Development Board
- Regional water planning groups
- Federal agencies
- Municipalities
- Groundwater conservation districts
- River authorities
- Environmental groups
- Irrigation districts
- Institutional water users
- Professional organizations focused on water conservation
- Higher education
- Agricultural groups
- Refining and chemical manufacturing
- Electric generation
- Mining and recovery of minerals
- Landscape irrigation and horticulture
- Water control and improvement districts

- Rural water users
- Municipal utility districts

All members are appointed by the Texas Water Development Board and serve six-year terms.

Expiration date: None

Worksite Wellness Advisory Board (Department of State Health Services)

Legislation: House Bill 1297, Section 4; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Advises the Department of State Health Services, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, and the statewide wellness coordinator on worksite wellness issues, including:
 - Funding and resource development for worksite wellness programs
 - Identifying food service vendors that successfully market healthy foods
 - Best practices for worksite wellness used by the private sector
 - Worksite wellness features and architecture for new state buildings based on features and architecture used by the private sector

Composition (13 members total):

- 1 employee of each of the following agencies:
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Texas Education Agency
 - Texas Department of Transportation
 - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Department of State Health Services
 - Employees Retirement System of Texas
- 1 other employee of the Department of State Health Services who is involved in worksite wellness efforts at the department
- 2 state employee representatives of an eligible state employee organization described by Section 403.0165, Government Code, with at least 10,000 active, dues-paying members
- 1 worksite wellness professional
- 1 representative of the American Cancer Society
- 1 representative of the American Heart Association
- 1 representative of the Texas Medical Association

All members of the advisory board are appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission. The executive commissioner shall make an effort to appoint at least one member from each of the health and human services regions and to consider input received from state agency employees. Each member of the board who is not a state officer or employee serves a two-year term and may be reappointed; each member who is a state officer or employee serves at the pleasure of the executive commissioner.

Expiration date: None

Youth Commission Advisory Board (Texas Youth Commission)

Legislation: Senate Bill 103, Section 30; creation is effective June 8, 2007; the legislation replaces the Texas Youth Commission governing board with an executive commissioner until September 1, 2009, at which time the TYC will be governed by a seven-member board

Function: Advises the executive commissioner of the Texas Youth Commission on matters concerning the commission and assists the executive commissioner in the performance of the executive commissioner's duties

Composition (9 members): The governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house each appoint 3 members. They shall coordinate to ensure that the membership meets the following requirements:

- Members must be citizens who are recognized within their communities for their interest in youth
- The board shall include at least one physician, an experienced member of a victims advocacy organization, a mental health professional, and a current or former prosecutor or judge
- A majority of the members must be qualified, by experience or education, in the development and administration of programs for the rehabilitation and reestablishment in society of children in the custody of agencies similar in mission and scope to the Texas Youth Commission
- At least two of the members must have primary experience in a field other than the field of criminal or juvenile justice

A member of the advisory board serves at the pleasure of the person who appointed the member.

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Youth with Disabilities Transitioning from School-Oriented Living, Work Group on (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: House Bill 1230, Section 3; creation is effective September 1, 2007

Functions:

- Creates and implements a plan to:
 - Ensure that an individual with a disability who is transitioning from school-oriented living into post-schooling activities, services for adults, or community living has choices about the individual's work and career and has the opportunity and support necessary to seek individualized, competitive employment in the community
 - Improve the collaboration between health and human services agencies, other state agencies, and community and local service providers to maximize existing supported employment resources
 - Increase the quality and quantity of available supported employment opportunities
- Files the recommended plan with the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission not later than April 1, 2008

Composition (unspecified number of members):

- 1 representative of the Department of State Health Services
- 1 representative of the Department of Aging and Disability Services
- 1 representative of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- 1 representative of the Health and Human Services Commission
- 1 representative of the Texas Workforce Commission
- 1 representative of the Texas Education Agency
- 1 representative who is a recognized expert on, or who represents the interests of, youth with disabilities who are transitioning to post-schooling activities, services for adults, or community living
- Additional members who are recognized experts on, or who represent the interests of, individuals with disabilities, including advocates, family members, physicians, providers of 1915(c) waiver services, employers currently offering supported employment opportunities, and community and local service providers with experience in supported employment

All members are appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

Expiration date: September 1, 2009

Renamed Entities

Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority

Previous Name: Automobile Theft Prevention Authority

Legislation: House Bill 1887, Section 4; the name change is effective September 1, 2007

Functions (revised): Revised by House Bill 1887 to include burglary and by House Bill 3225 to encompass other motor vehicles:

- Develops and implements a plan of operation that includes:
 - An assessment of the scope of the problems of motor vehicle burglary or theft and economic motor vehicle theft, including particular areas of the state where the problems are greatest
 - An analysis of various methods of combating the problems of motor vehicle burglary or theft and economic motor vehicle theft
 - A plan for providing financial support to combat motor vehicle burglary or theft and economic motor vehicle theft
 - An estimate of the funds required to implement the plan of operation
- Develops, establishes, and funds a motor vehicle registration program
- Provides financial support to law enforcement agencies for economic motor vehicle theft enforcement teams
- Provides financial support to law enforcement agencies, local prosecutors, judicial agencies, and neighborhood, community, business, and nonprofit organizations for programs designed to reduce the incidence of economic motor vehicle theft
- Conducts an educational program designed to inform motor vehicle owners of methods of preventing burglary or theft
- Provides equipment, for experimental purposes, to assist owners in preventing burglary or theft
- Establishes a uniform program to prevent stolen motor vehicles from entering Mexico

Composition (unchanged—7 members total):

- The following members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate:
 - 2 representatives of motor vehicle insurance consumers
 - 2 representatives of insurance companies writing motor vehicle insurance in Texas
 - 2 representatives of law enforcement

- The director of the Department of Public Safety or the director’s designee, as an ex-officio member

Expiration date (unchanged): None

Child Support Work Group (Office of the Attorney General)

Previous Name: County Advisory Work Group

Legislation: Senate Bill 228, Section 46; creation of the renamed work group is optional, not mandatory, effective September 1, 2007

Function (revised):

- **Previous:** Assisted the office of the attorney general in developing and changing child support programs that would affect counties
- **New:** Works with the attorney general in developing strategies to improve child support enforcement in Texas, including the delivery of Title IV-D services

Composition (revised—unspecified number of members): All members are appointed by the attorney general.

- **Previous:** At least one of each of the following: county judge; county commissioner; district clerk; domestic relations officer; associate judge for Title IV-D cases; and district court judge
- **New:** Representatives of public and private entities with an interest in child support enforcement in Texas

Expiration date (unchanged): None

Consumer Direction Work Group (Health and Human Services Commission)

Previous Name: Consumer Directed Services Work Group

Legislation: Senate Bill 1766, Section 3; the name change is effective September 1, 2007

Functions (revised):

- **Previous:** Assisted the Health and Human Services Commission in developing and implementing the voucher payment program under Section 531.051, Government Code, for certain services provided to persons with disabilities
- **New:**
 - Advises and assists the Health and Human Services Commission concerning the delivery of services through consumer direction, in all programs offering long-term services and supports, to ensure that consumers have access to a service delivery model that enhances a consumer’s ability to have freedom and exercise control and authority over the consumer’s choices, regardless of age or disability

- Develops recommendations to: expand the delivery of services through consumer direction to other programs serving persons with disabilities and elderly persons; expand the array of services delivered through consumer direction; increase the use of consumer direction models by consumers; optimize the provider base for consumer direction; and expand access to support advisors for those consumers receiving long-term services and supports through consumer direction
- Monitors national research for best practices in self-determination and consumer direction
- Develops recommendations and provides assistance regarding consumer outreach efforts to increase informed choices, skills, opportunities, and supports as a means to lead self-determined lives through the use of consumer direction models
- Reports to the legislature not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year

Composition (revised—unspecified number of members): Revised to reflect current agency organization and the focus on services provided through consumer direction:

- Representatives of the Health and Human Services Commission, appointed by the executive commissioner of the commission
- Representatives of the Department of Aging and Disability Services, appointed by the commissioner of that agency
- Representatives of the Department of State Health Services, appointed by the commissioner of that agency
- Representatives of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, appointed by the commissioner of that agency
- Consumers or potential consumers of the array of services provided through consumer direction under Section 531.051, Government Code, jointly appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the commissioner of the health and human services agency that administers the program providing the service
- Advocates for elderly persons who are consumers of the array of services provided to elderly persons through consumer direction, appointed by the executive commissioner
- Advocates for persons with disabilities who are consumers of the array of services provided to persons with disabilities through consumer direction, appointed by the executive commissioner
- Providers of services to be provided through consumer direction, appointed by the executive commissioner
- Representatives of the Texas Workforce Commission, appointed by the executive director of that commission
- Representatives of any other state agency as considered necessary by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, appointed by the governing body of the respective agency

- Representatives of any other state agency as recommended by the work group and approved by the executive commissioner, appointed by the governing body of the respective agency
- Any other public representative appointed by the executive commissioner

A majority of the members of the work group must be composed of consumers and advocates as described above.

Expiration date (revised): None (previously September 1, 2007)

Emerging Technology Advisory Committee, Texas

Previous Name: Texas Emerging Technology Committee

Legislation: House Bill 1188, Section 1; the name change is effective September 1, 2007

Function (unchanged): Makes recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house for awarding money from the Texas emerging technology fund

Composition (revised—17 members total): Revised to reflect that members from public or private institutions of higher education in Texas are to be nationally recognized leaders, rather than nationally recognized researchers, and to remove the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission from the list of entities that may submit nominations:

- Industry leaders in Texas
- Nationally recognized leaders from public or private institutions of higher education in Texas

All members are appointed by the governor from nominations that may be submitted by a president of a public or private institution of higher education in Texas, a representative of the governor's office involved in economic development activities, a representative of the lieutenant governor's office involved in economic development activities, a representative of the office of the speaker of the house involved in economic development activities, and other persons considered appropriate by the governor.

Expiration date (unchanged): None

Facilities Commission, Texas

Previous Name: Texas Building and Procurement Commission

Legislation: House Bill 3560, Sections 1.05 and 1.119; the name change is effective September 1, 2007

Functions (revised):

- **Previous:** Administered the following chapters of the Government Code:
 - Chapter 2155. Purchasing: General Rules and Procedures
 - Chapter 2156. Purchasing Methods
 - Chapter 2157. Purchasing: Purchase of Automated Information Systems

- Chapter 2158. Purchasing: Miscellaneous Provisions for Purchase of Certain Goods and Services
- Chapter 2161. Historically Underutilized Businesses
- Chapter 2162. State Council on Competitive Government (administrative support)
- Chapter 2163. Commercially Available Activities
- Chapter 2165. State Buildings, Grounds, and Property
- Chapter 2166. Building Construction and Acquisition
- Chapter 2167. Lease of Space for State Agencies
- Chapter 2170. Telecommunications Services (many of these provisions previously were transferred to the Department of Information Resources)
- Chapter 2171. Travel and Vehicle Fleet Services
- Chapter 2172. Miscellaneous General Services Provided by Commission
- Chapter 2175. Surplus and Salvage Property
- Chapter 2176. Mail
- Chapter 2177. Electronic Commerce
- **New:** The Texas Facilities Commission retains the powers and duties of the former Texas Building and Procurement Commission relating to (see chapters above):
 - Charge and control of state buildings, grounds, or property
 - Maintenance or repair of state buildings, grounds, or property
 - Construction of a state building
 - Purchase or lease of state buildings, grounds, or property by or for the state
 - Child care services for state employees
 - Surplus and salvage property

Composition (unchanged—7 members total):

- 3 members appointed by the governor
- 2 additional members appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house
- 2 members appointed by the lieutenant governor

The governor may reject one or more of the nominees on a list submitted by the speaker of the house and request a new list of different nominees.

Expiration date:

- The transfer of powers and duties to the comptroller is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). The Sunset Advisory Commission shall evaluate the transfer of powers and duties to the comptroller and present to the 82nd Legislature a report on its

evaluation and recommendations in relation to the transfer. Unless otherwise provided by the legislature by law, on September 1, 2011, the powers and duties transferred to the comptroller are transferred to the Texas Facilities Commission.

- The sunset date of September 1, 2013, for the former Texas Building and Procurement Commission is not changed by this legislation.

Local Authority Network Advisory Committee (Department of State Health Services)

Previous Name: Local Authority Technical Advisory Committee

Legislation: House Bill 2439, Section 3; the name change is effective June 16, 2007

Functions (revised): Revised to reflect that the committee advises the Department of State Health Services as well as the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and that “local authority” refers to a local mental health authority, but not a mental retardation authority:

- Advises the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services on technical and administrative issues that directly affect local mental health authority responsibilities
- Reviews rules and proposed rules and participates in any negotiated rulemaking process related to local mental health authority operations
- Advises the executive commissioner and the Department of State Health Services regarding evaluation and coordination of initiatives related to local mental health authority operations
- Advises the executive commissioner and the Department of State Health Services in developing a method of contracting with local mental health authorities that will result in contracts that are flexible and responsive to the needs and services of local communities and the department’s performance expectations
- Coordinates with work groups whose actions may affect local mental health authority operations
- Reports to the executive commissioner and the Department of State Health Services on the committee’s activities and recommendations at least once each fiscal quarter
- Works with the executive commissioner or the Department of State Health Services as the executive commissioner directs

Composition (revised): All members are appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission. In appointing the members, the executive commissioner must ensure a balanced representation of different regions of this state, rural and urban counties, and single-county and multi-county local mental health authorities. Members appointed to the advisory committee must have some knowledge of, familiarity with, or understanding of the day-to-day operations of a local mental health authority.

- **Previous (9 members total):** Representatives of local authorities and one member representing the public

- **New (unspecified number of members):** Equal numbers of representatives of local mental health authorities, community mental health service providers, private mental health service providers, local government officials, advocates for individuals with mental health needs, consumers of mental health services, family members of individuals with mental health needs, and other individuals with expertise in the field of mental health. The executive commissioner also may appoint facilitators to the committee as necessary.

Expiration date (unchanged): None

Nursing, Texas Board of

Previous Name: Texas Board of Nurse Examiners

Legislation: House Bill 2426, Section 1; the name change is effective September 1, 2007

Function (unchanged): Regulates the practice of professional nursing and vocational nursing in this state

Composition (unchanged—13 members total):

- 6 nurse members, including:
 - 1 advanced practice nurse
 - 2 registered nurses who are not advanced practice nurses or members of a nurse faculty
 - 3 vocational nurses who are not members of a nurse faculty
- 3 members who are nurse faculty members of schools of nursing:
 - 1 of whom is a nurse faculty member of a school of nursing offering a baccalaureate degree program in preparing registered nurses
 - 1 of whom is a nurse faculty member of a school of nursing offering an associate degree program in preparing registered nurses
 - 1 of whom is a nurse faculty member of a school of nursing at an institution of higher education preparing vocational nurses
- 4 members who represent the public

All members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

Expiration date: September 1, 2017, unless continued by the legislature under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act)

Office of Rural Community Affairs, Board of the

Previous Name: Executive committee of the Office of Rural Community Affairs

Legislation: House Bill 2542, Section 1; the name change is effective June 15, 2007

Function (unchanged): Serves as the governing body of the Office of Rural Community Affairs

Composition (revised):

• **Previous (9 members total):**

- 3 members appointed by the governor
- 3 members appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 3 members appointed by the speaker of the house

The governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint at least two members who possess a strong understanding of and commitment to rural interests based on the individual's personal history, including residency, occupation, and business or civic activities.

• **New (11 members total):**

- 4 members who represent different geographic regions of the state, appointed by the governor, including:
 - 2 locally elected rural city or county officials or city or county employees involved with rural development
 - 2 public members each of whom resides in a rural city or county
- 3 public members appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by the lieutenant governor
- 3 public members appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house
- The commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner's designee

The individuals nominated by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house must reside in a rural city or county and be interested in rural issues. In making appointments from the nominations submitted by the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house, the governor may reject one or more of the nominees and request a new list of different nominees.

Expiration date: September 1, 2013, unless continued by the legislature under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act)

Abolished Entities

Cancer Council, Texas

Legislation: House Bill 14, Section 9; with voter approval on November 6, 2007, of the constitutional amendment establishing the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, abolition is effective on the date on which a majority of the initial appointed members of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee have taken office

Function: Developed and worked to implement the Texas Cancer Plan. Functions are transferred to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and its governing body, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee, assisted by a new Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee.

Composition: 16 members

Child-Care Administrators and Facilities, State Advisory Committee on (Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: Senate Bill 758, Section 54; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Reviewed rules and minimum standards for child-care administrators, child-care facilities, and child-placing agencies promulgated by state agencies and advised the Department of Family and Protective Services, Family and Protective Services Council, and state agencies on problems of child-care administrators, child-care facilities, and child-placing agencies. Function is similar to that of the Committee on Licensing Standards created by this legislation.

Composition: 12 members

Child Support Services, Interagency Work Group on

Legislation: Senate Bill 228, Section 65; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Developed and maintained an interagency partnership strategy to coordinate the child support efforts of each agency in the work group

Composition: 5 members

Deepwater Port Authority, Texas

Legislation: House Bill 386, Section 1; abolition is effective June 16, 2007

Function: Created to develop a deepwater port for unloading oil from deep draft tankers; the port never materialized, and the authority was inactivated in 1981

Composition: 9 members

Electronic Government Program Management Office Advisory Committee (Department of Information Resources)

Legislation: House Bill 1789, Section 16; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Provided ongoing direction for operation of the Department of Information Resources' electronic government program management office, which is stricken from statute by this legislation

Composition: 11-15 members

Locating Parents and Relatives of Children Receiving Assistance, Interagency Work Group on

Legislation: Senate Bill 228, Section 65; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Facilitated the sharing of data and resources to locate parents and relatives of children assisted by the agencies in the work group

Composition: 8 members

Military Facilities Commission, Texas

Legislation: Senate Bill 1724, Section 17; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Served as the exclusive authority for the construction, repair, and maintenance of National Guard armories, facilities, and improvements owned by the state and located on commission property. Function is transferred to the Adjutant General's Department, assisted by a new Real Property Advisory Committee.

Composition: 7 members

National Research Laboratory Commission, Texas

Legislation: House Bill 387, Section 8; abolition is effective June 15, 2007

Function: Created to finance, develop, and operate a federal superconducting super collider research facility. The commission's functions were transferred to the General Land Office in 1997.

Composition: 9 members

Structural Pest Control Board, Texas

Legislation: House Bill 2458, Section 3.01; abolition is effective March 1, 2008

Function: Regulated the practice of structural pest control in Texas. Function is transferred to the Department of Agriculture, assisted by a new Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee.

Composition: 9 members

Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board

Legislation: House Bill 735, Section 1; abolition is effective September 1, 2008

Function: Supervised the telecommunications infrastructure fund, which is discontinued under this legislation

Composition: 9 members

Texans Conquer Cancer Advisory Committee (Texas Cancer Council)

Legislation: House Bill 14, Section 4; abolition is effective with voter approval on November 6, 2007, of the constitutional amendment establishing the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Function: Assisted the Texas Cancer Council in reviewing applications for grants funded from the Texans Conquer Cancer account

Composition: 7 members

Tow Truck Rules Advisory Committee (Texas Department of Transportation)

Legislation: House Bill 2094, Section 5.01, abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Advised the Texas Department of Transportation on adoption of rules relating to towing and vehicle storage. Licensing and regulation of towing and vehicle storage is transferred to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, assisted by a new Towing and Storage Advisory Board.

Composition: At least 6 members

Water Advisory Council, Texas

Legislation: Senate Bill 3, Section 2.36; abolition is effective September 1, 2007

Function: Provided the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and the Texas Legislature with expertise on state water issues, including an annual report

Composition: 15 members

