



Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

The Legislature's nonpartisan performance auditors

Guide to Sunset Reviews

What is a sunset review?

Sunset reviews evaluate whether to end, continue, or change an agency or program.

The Sunset Act is a Washington law (Chapter 43.131 RCW). It specifies the questions JLARC staff will answer in a sunset review.

Sunset reviews have four key steps

1. Legislature passes a bill that sets an end date.
 - The bill adds two sections to the Sunset Act. One sets the end date, which is typically seven to ten years in the future. The other repeals the underlying laws for the program or agency.
2. The program or agency sets performance measures, collects data, and shares it with JLARC staff.
3. JLARC staff do a sunset review one year before the end date. The Legislative Auditor must recommend legislative action.
4. The Legislature decides whether to continue, change, or end the program or agency.
 - If the Legislature does not act, the program or agency ends and the underlying laws are repealed one year later.

JLARC staff answer questions in law

JLARC staff evaluate if the program or agency:

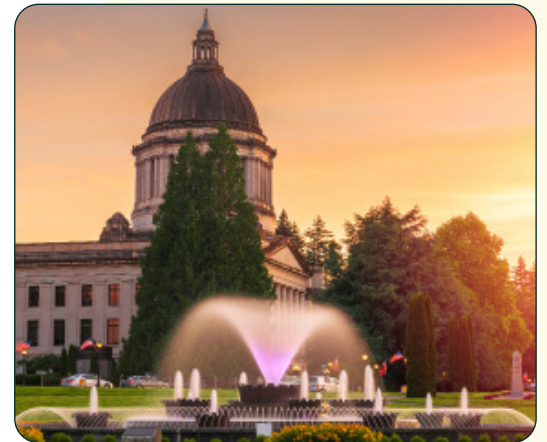
- Complies with legislative intent.
- Operates efficiently and economically.
- Reaches expected performance goals and targets.
- Duplicates activities done by another entity or the private sector.

The review also examines the possible effect of ending or changing the program or agency.

Results

Sunset reviews help legislators and agencies improve state government. Results include:

- Continuing Medicaid Fraud Qui Tam provisions, which recovered \$71.8 million.
- Improving alternative public works contracts and data.
- Continuing a joint university-industry program for aerospace research and education.



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