

Agency reviews, reports on state regulatory boards

By JOHN BRAFFORD
Staff Writer

The North Carolina sunset commission, formed by the 1977 General Assembly to review more than 100 state regulatory and licensing boards, is a sort of agency on agencies.

The commission was formed to reduce bureaucracy by weeding out unnecessary agencies, strengthening weak ones, and allowing effective ones to continue. The commission is concerned with a wide range of boards that by law will be abolished unless the General Assembly renews them.

If the commission decides that any regulatory agency it reviews is ineffective or not worthwhile, it may recommend to the General Assembly that it be abolished.

"The original conception was how can we get rid of layers of bureaucracy," said Paul Vick, chairman of the commission. "In North Carolina, we have recommended continuation of as many boards as we have recommended abolishment of, to provide better service, provide some cost savings and more efficiency."

"Licensing must offer some protection," said Paul Jordan, the commission's executive director. "We use serious harm as a threshold for either recommending continuing the license or requesting that it not be continued."

The sunset commission's decisions could save North Carolina money, some commission members said. Sam Hays, special assistant to Jordan, said, "Most of these regulation boards they are studying now are self-supporting. With the recommendations we are handing to the commission now, it will save money. The overall procedure should save the state some money."

But Jordan said the commission does not produce direct savings for the state. "If savings will occur, they will occur indirectly to the consumer. In general, we do not expect that the review of the licenses will save money because most of them are fee-funded."

In his State of the State Address Monday, Gov. Jim Hunt said the sunset commission could lead to indirect savings for consumers by making regulatory agencies more effective. He said the General Assembly should pay careful attention to the commission's recommendations.

"The majority of the programs we are reviewing do not operate on tax funds," Vick said. "It is possible, by

some re-structuring, to save money."

"If you make something more effective and cut out unnecessary money, it follows that you're going to cut some money," Hays said.

Despite possible tax savings, everyone is not happy about the commission's recommendations.

The commission is recommending that four boards licensing building contractors be abolished and replaced with a single independent board. The commission recommended that the General Assembly abolish licensing boards for electricity, refrigeration, plumbing and heating and general contractors.

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—Paul Vick, sunset commission chairman

Ruffin Bailey, attorney for the general contractors, said he disagreed with the commission's findings. "We've done a good job in protecting the public insofar as the statute allows us to," he said.

The boards and agencies being reviewed are of various sizes and represent diverse interests. "They range in size from navigation and piloting licensees to the 32,000-member real estate profession. They range in technology from medical boards, engineers, architects and public accountants to cosmetologists and barbers," Jordan said.

To date, the commission has tentatively adopted 10 recommendations. "The report dealing with construction workers' boards recommends consolidation of those four into one. The board for real estate recommends that their law be strengthened," Jordan said.

The commission has recommended that five regulatory boards—for watchmakers, tile contractors, private detectives, water-well contractors and landscape architects—be abolished.

"The N.C. sunset commission is patterned after Colorado's. There are presently 27 states with sunset-type commissions, Colorado's being the first," Jordan said.

Potential Fellinis offered chance to screen shorts

Any student who has made a 16 mm film of 10 minutes or less within the past two years and would like to have it shown before a free flick may contact Andrew Fair, Carolina Union Film Committee chairperson.

Fair said interested students should submit their films to the committee, preferably a few days before scheduled flicks so that films may be screened. The committee wants to give students the opportunity to have their films shown before audiences other than family and friends, he said, but not at the expense of upsetting audiences.

"We're not interested in offending patrons who have come to see a film at Carroll," he said. "Showing regular feature films is our main concern."

A committee member will project the film, he said, but the committee doesn't have insurance to cover alleged damage to films.

"We've looked into the possibility of getting insurance against that," he said, "but it's expensive and it can be difficult because it's hard to determine whose fault it is."

Fair said anyone interested should contact him at 933-1157/5309 or go by room 200 Carolina Union to work out details.

"We're not actively trying to seek people," he said, "but we want to know if people want to show them. We want to give them the opportunity."

—DONNA TOMPKINS

UNC to hold symposium on volunteer army in U.S.

A free public panel discussion on the future of the all-volunteer armed forces will be held at 8 p.m. Jan. 22 in 100 Hamilton Hall as part of a two-day symposium sponsored by the University's peace, war and defense curriculum.

Researchers, scholars and Defense Department officials will attend the symposium. Panel members include Rep. Robert Beard, R-Tenn., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and Gary R. Nelson and Harold W. Chase, deputy assistant secretaries of defense.

The purpose of the symposium "is not to generate a debate on the merits of the

all-volunteer armed forces, but rather to provide a forum for a useful exchange of views on the future course of the armed services," said Townsend Ludington, chairman of the curriculum.

Policy papers and research reports on the future of the all-volunteer armed forces will be presented at two workshops on Jan. 23.

For the record

Shorter hours

The *Daily Tar Heel* Wednesday incorrectly reported the hours for the Alpha Phi Omega book- and cash-back. The correct hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in rooms 202 and 204 Carolina Union.

Wrong Place

The *Daily Tar Heel* Wednesday incorrectly reported that applications for Institute of Government summer internships are available at University Placement Service. They actually are available at University Counseling Center, Nash Hall.

'DTH' seeks staff reporters

The *Daily Tar Heel* will hold a meeting at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Carolina Union lounge outside the DTH office for persons interested in working on the staff this semester. Positions are available for news and features writers-reporters. Details of applying will be discussed at the meeting and a writing-editing test will be distributed to prospective applicants.

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