

**Sunset Advisory Commission  
Board and Commission Review**

**Training Safety Subcommittee of the Training Center Governance Committee  
29 V.S.A. 842**

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

**The Safety Subcommittee of the Training Center Governance Committee is required by the Legislature to meet annually on or before February 1, review the safety records of the Training Center; and on or before July 1, submit to the Training Center Governance Committee its recommendations regarding how training safety at the Training Center could be improved.**

**The Committee meets twice per calendar year to review safety within training and create a safety report for the Governance Committee. Meeting dates for the previous two years are:**

**January 28, 2020**

**August 24, 2020**

**December 17, 2020**

**August 18, 2021**

**December 16, 2021 (scheduled)**

**The agendas and minutes have been circulated to the Safety Subcommittee and Chair of the Governance Committee. A page on the Division of Fire Safety's website is being built to announce meetings and make minutes available to the public.**

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

**The Safety Subcommittee is comprised of seven members who are appointed by the head of agency who is named in Statute. These appointments have no term length or expiration and**

**committee members are compensated for their time by the appointing authority. The membership is listed below:**

**Two representatives appointed by the Vermont Police Academy:**

**Lindsay Thivierge**

**Currently vacant**

**Two representatives appointed by the Vermont Fire Academy:**

**Peter Lynch**

**Ben Whalen**

**Commissioner of Labor or designee:**

**Dan Whipple**

**Risk Management Manager - Office of Risk Management within the Agency of Administration:**

**Rebecca White**

**Vermont League of Cities and Towns Executive Director or their designee:**

**Trevor Whipple**

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

**The purpose of the Safety Subcommittee is to review OSHA 300 recordable injuries that occurred on campus or during academy training and provide risk management solutions to prevent further occurrences in the future when necessary. The Safety Subcommittee also encourages ways in which the two training centers can be consistent in the distribution of safety guidelines, equipment, training, and reporting documentation.**

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

**Yes, the Safety Subcommittee gives valuable feedback from an outside perspective that aids in curriculum delivery changes that enhance safety on campus and at outreach training. If the Safety Subcommittee was disbanded there is still a need to review injury reports to better understand if best practices are being met, and safety guidelines to ensure that they remain current.**

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

**Each year the Safety Subcommittee provides a joint Safety Report to the Governance Committee. This document includes investigative findings of all OSHA 300 recordable injuries and recommended changes to prevent further injuries from occurring. This document details what preventative measures each academy is taking for risk management and documents their continued joint efforts in providing safe training in hazardous fields. The report includes evidence of the Safety Committees success in providing safe training and its commitment to students and staff.**

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

**No**

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

**No**

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

**Yes**

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

**N/A**

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

**No, however the Safety Subcommittee provides the Safety Report to the Governance Committee. This report is included in the Governance Committee's Annual Report that is presented to the Legislature yearly. The items required to be in that report are any training safety issues that have been discovered at the Training Center and any steps it has taken to remedy those issues and whether the Governance Committee has instituted any of the Subcommittee's recommendations for training safety.**