

**SUBJECT:** Continuing State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists

**COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Delisi, Laubenberg, Coleman, Dawson, Jackson, McReynolds, Solis, Truitt

0 nays

1 absent — Zedler

**WITNESSES:** For — Susan Levin, Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Shannon Noble, Texas Counseling Association)

Against — None

On — Steve Hopson, Sunset Commission, Debbie Peterson, Department of State Health Services Professional Licensing

**BACKGROUND:** Marriage and family therapy typically includes evaluating and treating cognitive, affective, behavioral, or relational problems within the context of a marriage or family. Therapists engaged in marriage and family therapy are overseen and regulated by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists.

The board underwent sunset review in 1993 and was continued by the 73rd Legislature. If not continued by the 79th Legislature, the board will be abolished September 1, 2005.

**DIGEST:** HB 1413 would continue the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists until September 1, 2017.

It would add standard sunset provisions governing conflicts of interest, grounds for removing board members, training of board members, division of responsibilities, negotiating of rulemaking, technology, and complaint procedures. It also would add standard licensing board recommendations, such as removing the temporary license exemption, removing per diem costs, rules on criminal convictions, board committees,

adding a public member to the complaint committee, the jurisprudence examination, removing oral exams, license renewal terms, refunds, administrative penalties, and cease and desist orders.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists adequately oversees marriage and family therapists in Texas. The sunset provisions would standardize the board's enabling statutes with other agencies and licensing boards. The Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed the agency and suggested no significant changes.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:**

The committee substitute made modifications to the standard sunset recommendation about conflict of interest restrictions for board members.

The companion bill, SB 417 by Whitmire, has been referred to the Senate Government Organization Committee.