



NEWS RELEASE

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Reform
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DORA Releases 2009 Sunset Reviews Ensuring Consumer Protection and Government Accountability

DENVER – Rico Munn, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), announces this afternoon the release of 15 Sunset Reports, which provide recommendations to the Colorado Legislature to repeal unnecessary regulation in state government programs or divisions, and enhance the performance of continued programs. This year, DORA conducted sunset reviews throughout state government including programs and boards within the Departments of Public Safety, Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services, Natural Resources and DORA.

Colorado was the first state in the country to pass a regulatory sunset law in 1976, and by 1982, 36 other states followed suit. The sunset process was one of the first accountability tools designed to examine the need for and impact of state regulation on the economy and the effectiveness of state regulation in protecting consumers.

“In tough economic times like today, it is more important than ever to ensure that government runs as efficiently and effectively as possible,” said Executive Director Munn. “DORA’s sunset recommendations enhance the efficiency of regulatory programs without compromising their purpose of protecting consumers.”

Past highlights of sunset reviews culminated in the following:

- Increased public membership on state boards and commissions
- Introduced more efficient administrative practices and disciplinary procedures
- Created stronger prohibitions against conflicts of interest
- Eliminated duplication or overlap of functions and unnecessary licensing of professions
- Eliminated rules that attempt to regulate competition with no reasonable public protection requirement
- Terminated unnecessary government programs and consolidated others

Bruce Harrelson directs DORA's Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform, which includes a team of analysts, who conduct the sunset reviews. "Our criteria and timeline for sunset reviews are based in statute, however we have made the process much more inclusive, engaging consumers, businesses and interest groups into the discussion," said Harrelson.

"When smarter government better protects the public, everyone is better off," said Munn.

Following are the sunset reviews for 2009 that will be available in their entirety online at www.dora.state.co.us/opr after noon today. There will also be a summary of recommendations for all 2009 reviews posted at the same time.

- Board of Medical Examiners
- Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Electrical Board
- Forestry Advisory Board.
- High Technology Scholarship Program Advisory Committee.
- Licensing of River Outfitters
- Obesity Treatment Pilot Program
- Office of Boxing, including the Colorado State Boxing Commission
- Podiatry Board
- Sex Offender Management Board
- State Board of Accountancy
- Telemedicine Pilot Program
- The Functions of the Division of Insurance Related To the Regulation of Property and Casualty, Automobile and Any Other Entity or Function That Does Not Offer Health or Life Insurance
- Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee until 2013.
- Workers' Compensation Classification Appeals Board

Any interested party may provide input on reviews by contacting OPRRR directly at 303-894-2992 or on-line at http://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/real/OPR_Review_Comments.Main.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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