**Department of State**

**Joint Sunset Committee Recommendations**

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| The 2006 Legislature enacted the Florida Government Accountability Act, which established an agency sunset review process to be used by the Legislature to determine if a public need exists for the continuation of a state agency, its advisory committees, or its programs. The Department of State (DOS) is one of four agencies being reviewed during the 2010 cycle. The Joint Sunset Committee focused on similar activities being performed by multiple state agencies and recommends that the agency, its programs, and advisory councils be continued, except for the following recommendations.  |
| ***Notary Public (Tab 2A)***Currently both the Department of State and the Executive Office of the Governor play vital roles in the appointing and commissioning notaries.* DOS acts as the administrative arm for notaries by processing applications and issuing commissions
* DOS also keeps and maintains all records related to notaries which is accessible to the public
* EOG approves applications, follows up on any complaints and recommends disciplinary actions when appropriate, publishes educational materials and holds notary seminars, and answers any inquiries from notaries

RecommendationCombine the EOG notary Section within the DOS notary section |
| ***Master Business Index (Tab 2B)***Individuals that start businesses in Florida must interact with multiple state agencies to obtain needed registrations, licenses, and tax certificates. To address these issues, the Legislature enacted the Florida Business Coordination Act. This act directed the Department of State to develop a master business index, which was to consolidate all business entity records maintained by state agencies and assign a single identifying number to each business to enable agencies to share and easily retrieve business registration and license information.RecommendationIt is the recommendation of the Joint Sunset Committee the Legislature pursues using the Single Business Identifier/Master Business Index. The Legislature should create a task force that would include, at a minimum, the Department of State, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of Revenue and the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology to formulate and propose an implementation plan for state agencies to use the SBI/MBI. |

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| ***The Grove Advisory Council***The purpose of The Grove Advisory Council is to advise the Department of State on the operation, maintenance, preservation, and protection of the Call/Collins House in Tallahassee, commonly known as The Grove. This includes the grounds, cemetery, structures, and furnishings.RecommendationAbolish– The management, maintenance, and operation of the Grove should be assumed by a not-for-profit citizen support organization as the property evolves into a house museum. |
| ***State Historical Marker Council***The council identifies goals for the State Historical Marker Program and evaluates proposals for historical markers to be placed ut Florida.RecommendationAbolish - responsibilities assumed by the Florida Historical Commission |
| ***Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee*** The Great Floridians Ad Hoc Selection Committee helps select individuals who have made contributions to the progress and welfare of the state for designation as a “Great Floridian.”RecommendationAbolish - responsibilities assumed by the Florida Historical Commission |
| ***Folklife Apprenticeship Ad Hoc Advisory Committee*** The Folklife Apprenticeship Ad Hoc Advisory Committee helps determine the teams of applicants (i.e., master artist and apprentice) selected to participate in the department’s federally funded folklife apprenticeship program.RecommendationAbolish - responsibilities assumed by the Florida Folklife Council |
| ***Florida Library Network Council*** The Florida Library Network Council is one of the entities that provide the department with advice regarding interlibrary cooperation, library network development, and oversight of the department’s Florida Electronic Library Program.RecommendationAbolish - responsibilities assumed by the Library Information Services Council |