

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Summary of Budget Recommendations - Senate**

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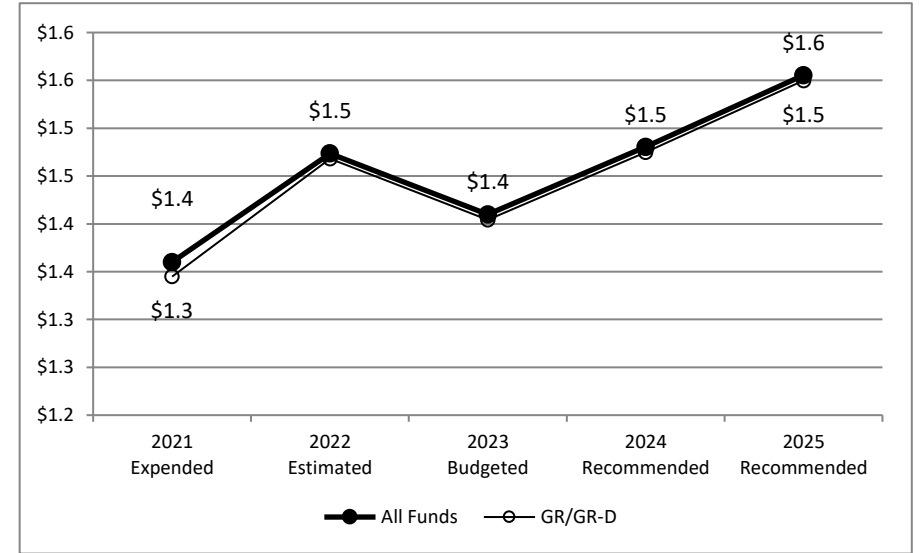
Brittany Sharkey, Executive Director

Sean Leeper, LBB Analyst

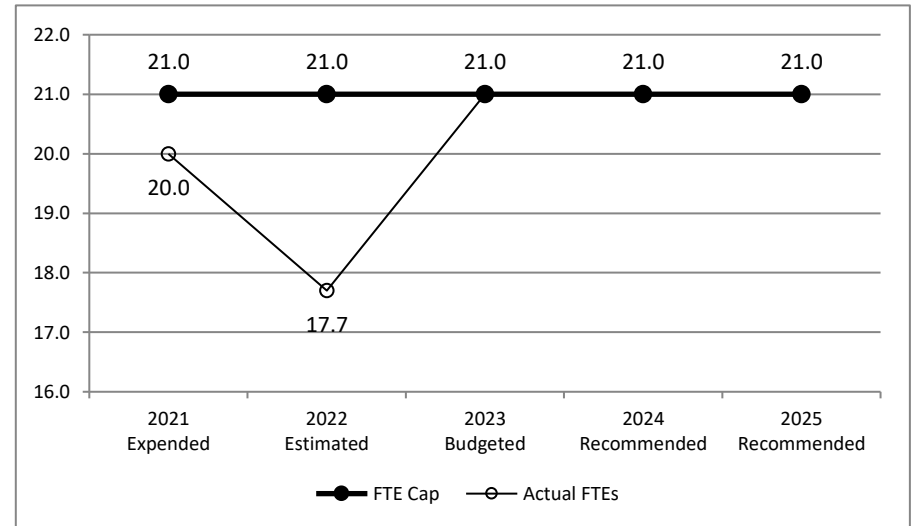
Method of Financing	2022-23 Base	2024-25 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$2,872,228	\$3,024,745	\$152,517	5.3%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$2,872,228</i>	<i>\$3,024,745</i>	<i>\$152,517</i>	<i>5.3%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Other	\$11,054	\$11,054	\$0	0%
All Funds	\$2,883,282	\$3,035,799	\$152,517	5.3%

	FY 2023 Budgeted	FY 2025 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	21.0	21.0	0	0

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2024-25 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2024-25 biennium.

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate**

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2024-25 Biennium compared to the 2022-23 Base Spending Level	General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
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<i>OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):</i>
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A)	Decrease of funding for one-time costs associated with the capitol complex relocation.	(\$63,700)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$63,700)	A.1.1
B)	Increase for the general state employee salary increase with amounts not subject to revenue collection requirements.	\$216,217	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$216,217	A.1.1, A.2.1, B.1.1, B.1.2, C.1.1

TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions)	\$152,517	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$152,517	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases</i>	\$216,217	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$216,217	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases</i>	(\$63,700)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$63,700)	As Listed

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate**

1. **Sunset Review.** The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Veterinary Board) has undergone three Sunset Commission reviews over the last six years. In November 2022, a special-purpose Sunset staff review found the agency had improperly contracted for a new database it never received and indicated that the agency was continuing to struggle with data collection, tracking, reliability, and analysis. As a result of these and other findings, the Sunset Commission directed staff to identify options to address the systemic issues at the Veterinary Board and submit them to the commission. In January 2023, Sunset staff proposed a series of options for the commission. The Sunset Commission adopted Option 1, which recommends temporarily attaching the Veterinary Board to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) for a four-year period during which TDLR would provide the Veterinary Board with policymaking and administrative oversight, guidance, and support. The Veterinary Board would serve as an advisory board during this period, and at the end of the four-year attachment, the Veterinary Board would return to its independent agency status. In addition, TDLR and the Department of Information Resources (DIR) would determine the Veterinary Board's database needs and help acquire and implement a suitable database.

2. **House Bill 2 Five Percent Reduction.** For the 2020–21 biennium, the agency target for required reductions was \$127,361. The plan submitted by the agency to meet this reduction included leaving a vacant legal Assistant position open (\$110,000) and laying off an Administrative Assistant position in FY2021 (\$17,361). The agency received a credit of \$45,965 for lapsed funds in fiscal year 2020 reducing the final total included in House Bill 2, Eighty-seventh Legislature, 2021 to \$81,396. However, the agency was only able to apply \$35,845 in General Revenue reduction and failed to reduce the remaining \$45,551. According to the agency, the inability to lapse the five percent reduction was due to being fully staffed in fiscal year 2021 and electing not to layoff an administrative position that had been reinstated in the next biennium through adoption of a related exceptional item for the 2022–23 biennium.

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Rider Highlights - Senate**

Deleted Riders

- Former 3. **Sunset Contingency.** Recommendation delete the rider due to enactment of Senate Bill 713, Eighty-seventh Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, which continued the agency through September 1, 2029.

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

	2024-25 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2026-27
	GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			

Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)

1)	General Revenue funding to purchase a software application to be used as the new data system.	\$719,350	\$719,350	0.0	Yes	Yes	\$600,240
2)	General Revenue funding to provide a 15 percent salary increase for all eligible employees.	\$336,000	\$336,000	0.0	No	No	\$336,000
3)	General Revenue funding to develop and implement a career ladder program.	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.0	No	No	\$100,000
4)	General Revenue funding with authority for an additional 6.0 Investigator FTEs (\$55,000 per position each year) to address a backlog of case investigations and to reduce the time to complete complaint investigations.	\$1,124,160	\$1,124,160	6.0	No	No	\$1,094,160
5)	General Revenue funding with authority for an additional 1.0 FTE for a staff veterinarian (\$103,000 each year) to perform medical reviews.	\$206,000	\$206,000	1.0	No	No	\$206,000
6)	General Revenue funding with authority for an additional 1.0 FTE for a staff attorney (\$92,390 each year) to address an increasing number of complaints and Public Information Act requests received by the agency.	\$184,780	\$184,780	1.0	No	No	\$184,780
7)	General Revenue funding to cover increased vendor costs of Texas Pharmacy Association's Professional Recovery Network for the peer assistance program.	\$81,000	\$81,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$81,000
8)	General Revenue funding for case preparation associated with cases anticipated to be filed with the State Office of Administrative Hearings.	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.0	No	No	\$50,000
9)	General Revenue funding to provide funding for existing vacant positions.	\$374,000	\$374,000	0.0	No	No	\$374,000
10)	General Revenue Funds for an Exempt position salary increase for Executive Director position from the current annual cap of \$113,413 to \$129,765 in Group 2. Recommendations provide an authorized annual salary cap of \$117,077 for FY 2024 and \$120,740 for FY 2025.	\$21,713	\$21,713	0.0	No	No	\$21,713

TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations

\$3,197,003

\$3,197,003

8.0

\$3,047,893

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Appendices - Senate**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2022-23 Base	2024-25 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
OPERATE LICENSURE SYSTEM A.1.1	\$678,647	\$602,649	(\$75,998)	(11.2%)	Recommendations include: a) a decrease of \$63,700 in General Revenue funding for one-time funding for capitol complex relocation. b) a decrease of \$15,046 in General Revenue funding to offset increases in strategies B.1.1 and B.1.2 c) an increase of \$2,748 in General Revenue funding for the the Executive Director salary increase.
TEXAS.GOV A.1.2	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0	0.0%	
COMPLAINTS AND ACTION A.2.1	\$1,810,572	\$1,723,747	(\$86,825)	(4.8%)	Recommendations include: a) a decrease of \$89,573 in General Revenue funding to offset increases in strategies B.1.1 and B.2.1. b) an increase of \$2,748 in General Revenue funding for the the Executive Director salary increase.
PEER ASSISTANCE A.2.2	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal A, VETERINARY REGULATION	\$2,659,219	\$2,496,396	(\$162,823)	(6.1%)	
LICENSING INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION B.1.1	\$100,208	\$166,989	\$66,781	66.6%	Recommendations include: a) an increase of \$64,033 in General Revenue funding for Salaries and Wages and associated costs for the expectation of being fully staffed. b) an increase of \$2,748 in General Revenue funding for the the Executive Director salary increase.
COMPLAINTS & ACTION INDIRECT ADMIN B.1.2	\$123,855	\$167,187	\$43,332	35.0%	Recommendations include: a) an increase of \$40,586 in General Revenue funding for Salaries and Wages and associated costs for the expectation of being fully staffed. b) an increase of \$2,748 in General Revenue funding for the the Executive Director salary increase.
Total, Goal B, INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	\$224,063	\$334,176	\$110,113	49.1%	
SALARY ADJUSTMENTS C.1.1	\$0	\$205,227	\$205,227	100.0%	Increase for the general state employee salary increase with amounts not subject to revenue collection requirements.

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2022-23 Base	2024-25 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
Total, Goal C, SALARY ADJUSTMENTS	\$0	\$205,227	\$205,227	100.0%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$2,883,282	\$3,035,799	\$152,517	5.3%	

**Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
FTE Highlights - Senate**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2021	Estimated 2022	Budgeted 2023	Recommended 2024	Recommended 2025
Cap	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0
Actual/Budgeted	20.0	17.7	21.0	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
Executive Director (Group 2)	\$113,413	\$113,413	\$113,413	\$117,077	\$120,740

Notes:

a) The State Auditor's Office Report, *Executive Compensation at State Agencies* (Report 22-706, August 2022), indicates an average market salary of \$120,740 for the Executive Director position at the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. General Revenue Funds for an Exempt position salary increase for Executive Director position from the current annual cap of \$113,413 to \$129,765 in Group 2. Recommendations provide an authorized annual salary cap of \$117,077 for FY 2024 and \$120,740 for FY 2025. See also, Items Not Included in Recommendations #10

b) The State Auditor's Office is the source for the FY 2021 and FY 2022 annual average (actual) FTE levels.