



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Professional Soil Scientists Licensing Program  
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[www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/soil](http://www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/soil)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Philip M. DeBusk, Legislative Liaison,  
Performance Audit, Division of State Audit

**FROM:** Bill Giannini, Assistant Commissioner, Regulatory Boards

**DATE:** August 28, 2013

**RE:** Soil Scientists Sunset Review Questions

The Soil Scientist Advisory Committee has been scheduled for a Sunset public hearing before the Commerce, Labor, Transportation and Agriculture Joint Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee (GOC). The hearing is scheduled for September 17, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza.

The GOC subcommittee will be following up on issues raised during the sunset hearing of the advisory committee held in August 2012. Specifically, at the time of that hearing, the program had issued only 71 licenses and had only two pending applications. Through June 30, 2013, how many licenses have been issued and how many applications were pending?

*Currently the program has 67 active licensees and no pending applications. The difference in the numbers previously reported results from license expiration during the most recent renewal cycle.*

If numbers have not increased significantly, and are not anticipated to do so, should the program be combined with some other entity such as the Geology Registration Program?

*The Soil Scientist Advisory Committee (SSAC) is operating with a positive fiscal balance. The administrative functions of the program are currently combined with other small boards housed within the Division of Regulatory Boards. This model allows programs to share basic common resources and results in reduced costs and improved efficiency. The practical effect of combining the SSAC with another program would be a consolidation of their reserve funds. Each program would maintain its own identity and accounting of*

*revenues and expenses. While the Division of Regulatory Boards has previously proposed and currently supports any deliberation or consideration of the combining of the SSAC with another program, we are philosophically neutral on the question of merging the Soil Scientist Advisory Committee with another program. We defer to the will and wisdom of the legislature to determine if any change in the structure of the program is in the best interest of Tennesseans and hope that we have provided adequate information to aid the Committee in making an informed decision.*

**Soil Scientists Financial Information**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Balance</b>
<b>FY 2010-2011</b>	34,000	16,674	17,326
<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	2,145	10,139	(7,994)
<b>FY 2012-2013*</b>	22,151	6,188	15,963

\*Preliminary numbers as of 8/30/13

cc:

The Honorable Julie Mix McPeak, Commissioner  
Mr. Bill Giannini, Assistant Commissioner, Regulatory Boards  
Mr. John Williams, Internal Audit Director  
Ms. Denise Lawrence, Legislative Director  
Department of Commerce and Insurance