11. Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:

B. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendments, new sections, repeals and rule reviews as follows:

5. Proposed amendments to title 37 TAC, Chapter 457, Incident Safety Officer, including but not limited to, §457.1, Incident Safety Officer Certification, §457.3, Minimum Standards for Incident Safety Officer Certification, and §457.5, Examination Requirements.

CHAPTER 457

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

§457.1 Incident Safety Officer Certification.

(a) An Incident Safety Officer is defined as a member of the command staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety at an incident.

(b) All individuals holding an Incident Safety Officer certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).

(c) All Safety Officer certifications issued by the commission and referenced in this chapter are voluntary.

§457.3 Minimum Standards for Incident Safety Officer Certification.

In order to be certified as an Incident Safety Officer an individual must:

(1) hold commission certification as Fire Officer I and;

(2) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as an Incident Safety Officer; or

(3) complete a commission-approved Incident Safety Officer program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Incident Safety Officer program must consist of one of the following:

(A) completion of a **commission** [~~commission-~~]approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum as specified in the applicable chapter of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or

(B) completion of the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer course; or

(C) completion of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association Incident Safety Officer course; or

(D) completion of an out-of-state, educational institution of higher education, and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to, or exceeds the **commission** [~~commission-~~]approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum.

[~~(4) The commission examination requirement is waived for individuals who have completed one of the training programs in paragraph (3)(B) - (D) of this section and apply for certification by August 31, 2013. After this date, individuals must successfully pass the commission examination prior to applying for certification.~~]

§457.5 Examination Requirements.

(a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive an Incident Safety Officer certification, unless otherwise specified in this chapter.

(b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Incident Safety Officer certification by documenting Fire Officer I certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seal, and completing a commission approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum.