

December 3, 2020

Texas Commission on Fire Protection Sunset Committee;

1. I fully support the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) reorganization model submitted by the fire chiefs of the twenty-five largest fire departments.
2. Government Code section 2110.008 illuminates the TCFP's Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (TFAC) operating for 15 years passed its abolishment date in 2005.
3. Individual standards of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), an international nonprofit organization of over 50,000 members, should not be adopted in a "cherry picked" manner. Currently each standard that has been adopted, mandated, and enforced by the TCFP is a result of individual/group congressional lobbying. This facilitates special interest agendas by vendors or persons/groups affecting operations and public funding requirements of TCFP compliant departments. I suggest a public acknowledgement of the NFPA as recognized best practices and endorsed, not enforced, by the TCFP.
4. Recertification should be on a four-year schedule in-line with paramedic and emergency medical technician.
5. Elimination State general funding from fee revenue from fire departments, municipalities, or individual firefighters.
6. Place legal counsel within the TCFP for internal and external customer service.
7. Accreditation through Texas Fire Chief's Best Practices and Center for Public Safety Excellence are options for external validation once the sole domain of the TCFP. Currently the cost of certifications, recertifications, and facility fees are not offset by the value (lack of value) of the TCFP. Professionally, I currently view the TCFP as an unfunded mandate versus a value-added asset.

Thank you.

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