

AN ACT concerning fire safety.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The State Fire Marshal Act is amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

(20 ILCS 2905/2) (from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 2)

Sec. 2. The Office shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To exercise the rights, powers and duties which have been vested by law in the Department of State Police as the successor of the Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal, inspectors, officers and employees of the State Fire Marshal, including arson investigation. Arson investigations conducted by the State Fire Marshal's Office shall be conducted by State Fire Marshal Arson Investigator Special Agents, who shall be peace officers as provided in the Peace Officer Fire Investigation Act.

2. To keep a record, as may be required by law, of all fires occurring in the State, together with all facts, statistics and circumstances, including the origin of fires.

3. To exercise the rights, powers and duties which have been vested in the Department of State Police by the "Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act", approved August 7, 1951, as

amended.

4. To administer the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act.

5. To aid in the establishment and maintenance of the training facilities and programs of the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

6. To disburse Federal grants for fire protection purposes to units of local government.

7. To pay to or in behalf of the City of Chicago for the maintenance, expenses, facilities and structures directly incident to the Chicago Fire Department training program. Such payments may be made either as reimbursements for expenditures previously made by the City, or as payments at the time the City has incurred an obligation which is then due and payable for such expenditures. Payments for the Chicago Fire Department training program shall be made only for those expenditures which are not claimable by the City under "An Act relating to fire protection training", certified November 9, 1971, as amended.

8. To administer General Revenue Fund grants to areas not located in a fire protection district or in a municipality which provides fire protection services, to defray the organizational expenses of forming a fire protection district.

9. In cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, to administer the Illinois Leaking Underground Storage Tank program in accordance with Section 4 of this Act and Section 22.12 of the Environmental Protection

Act.

10. To expend state and federal funds as appropriated by the General Assembly.

11. To provide technical assistance, to areas not located in a fire protection district or in a municipality which provides fire protection service, to form a fire protection district, to join an existing district, or to establish a municipal fire department, whichever is applicable.

12. To exercise such other powers and duties as may be vested in the Office by law.

(Source: P.A. 94-178, eff. 1-1-06.)

Section 10. The Peace Officer Fire Investigation Act is amended by changing Section 1 as follows:

(20 ILCS 2910/1) (from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 501)

Sec. 1. Peace Officer Status.

(a) Any person who is a sworn member of any organized and paid fire department of a political subdivision of this State and is authorized to investigate fires or explosions for such political subdivision ~~and, or who is employed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ to determine the cause, origin and circumstances of ~~such~~ fires or explosions that are suspected to be arson or arson-related crimes, may be classified as a peace officer by the political subdivision or agency employing such person. A person so classified shall possess the same powers of

arrest, search and seizure and the securing and service of warrants as sheriffs of counties, and police officers within the jurisdiction of their political subdivision. While in the actual investigation and matters incident thereto, such person may carry weapons as may be necessary, but only if that person has satisfactorily completed (1) a training program offered or approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board which substantially conforms to standards promulgated pursuant to the Illinois Police Training Act and the Peace Officer Firearm Training Act ~~"An Act in relation to firearms training for peace officers", approved August 29, 1975, as amended; or in the case of employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a training course approved by the Department of State Police which also substantially conforms to standards promulgated pursuant to "An Act in relation to firearms training for peace officers", approved August 29, 1975, as amended;~~ and (2) a course in fire and arson investigation approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act. Such training need not include exposure to vehicle and traffic law, traffic control and accident investigation, or first aid, but shall include training in the law relating to the rights of persons suspected of involvement in criminal activities.

Any person granted the powers enumerated in this subsection ~~(a) Section~~ may exercise such powers only during the actual investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of such

fires or explosions that are suspected to be arson or arson-related crimes.

(b) Persons employed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to conduct arson investigations shall be designated State Fire Marshal Arson Investigator Special Agents and shall be peace officers with all of the powers of peace officers in cities and sheriffs in counties, except that they may exercise those powers throughout the State. These Special Agents may exercise these powers only when engaging in official duties during the actual investigation of the cause, origin, and circumstances of such fires or explosions that are suspected to be arson or arson-related crimes and may carry weapons at all times, but only if they have satisfactorily completed (1) a training course approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board that substantially conforms to the standards promulgated pursuant to the Peace Officer Firearm Training Act and (2) a course in fire and arson investigation approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act. Such training need not include exposure to vehicle and traffic law, traffic control and accident investigation, or first aid, but shall include training in the law relating to the rights of persons suspected of involvement in criminal activities.

For purposes of this subsection (b), a "State Fire Marshal Arson Investigator Special Agent" does not include any fire investigator, fireman, police officer, or other employee of the

federal government; any fire investigator, fireman, police officer, or other employee of any unit of local government; or any fire investigator, fireman, police officer, or other employee of the State of Illinois other than an employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal assigned to investigate arson.

The State Fire Marshal must authorize to each employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal who is exercising the powers of a peace officer a distinct badge that, on its face, (i) clearly states that the badge is authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and (ii) contains a unique identifying number. No other badge shall be authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, except that a badge, different from the badge issued to peace officers, may be authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for the use of fire prevention inspectors employed by that Office. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the State Fire Marshal from issuing shields or other distinctive identification to employees not exercising the powers of a peace officer if the State Fire Marshal determines that a shield or distinctive identification is needed by the employee to carry out his or her responsibilities.

(Source: P.A. 92-339, eff. 8-10-01; 93-423, eff. 8-5-03.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.