

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 419

By: Leftwich of the Senate
and
Ostrander of the House

An Act relating to the State Fire Marshal Commission; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 324.9, which relates to the State Fire Marshal; providing gender neutral language; expanding types of investigations; providing enforcement of certain laws; expanding enforcement authority; expanding scope of reports; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 324.9, is amended to read as follows:

Section 324.9 The State Fire Marshal or his or her deputies may make investigations ~~of arson~~ to determine the origin and cause of fires, explosions, or suspected arson, and if he shall be of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, or with the attempt to commit the crime of arson, or of conspiracy to defraud, or any criminal conduct in connection with such fire, he violations of other related laws and codes. The State Fire Marshal and his or her ~~arson investigators~~ agents shall be peace officers and have and exercise all the powers and authority of other peace officers, ~~relative to the investigation of arson~~ with primary responsibility for the enforcement of statutes relating to the State Fire Marshal. This shall include the authority to enforce, issue citations, and make arrests for felony offenses relevant to the duties of the State Fire Marshal. All reports and all results of investigations ~~relating to arson or suspected arson~~ relevant to the State Fire Marshal statutes shall be

available and shall be freely interchanged between the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 1st day of March, 1999.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____ ,
1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives