



2017-2018 General Assembly

## SENATE BILL 257: Appropriations Act of 2017, Sec. 22.4: Allow the State Fire Marshal to Investigate Arson.

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	August 15, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kristen L. Harris Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Sec. 22.4 of S.L. 2017-57		

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**OVERVIEW:** *Sec. 22.4 of S.L. 2017-57 authorizes the State Fire Marshal to investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of every fire in the State in which property has been destroyed or damaged, and to specially make investigation whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design.*

*This section became effective on June 28, 2017.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under G.S. 58-79-1, the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation and the chief of the fire department, or the chief of police where there is no fire chief, in municipalities or towns, and the county fire marshal and sheriff of the county and the chief of the rural fire department where a fire occurs outside of a municipality, are authorized to conduct arson investigations.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Sec. 22.4 of S.L. 2017-57 adds the State Fire Marshal to the list of individuals authorized to conduct arson investigations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section became effective on June 28, 2017.

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