

appearing as witnesses before him or them; and false swearing in any matter or proceeding aforesaid shall be deemed perjury and shall be punishable as such. The Commissioner and deputy shall have the authority at all times of the day or night, in performance of the duties imposed by the provisions of this Article, to enter upon and examine any building or premises where any fires or attempt to cause fires shall have occurred, or which at the time may be burning, and also the power to enter upon at any time any building adjacent to that in which the fire or attempt to cause fires occurred, should he deem it necessary in the proper discharge of his duties; and they may, in the exercise of their discretion, take full control and custody of the said buildings and premises, and place such person in charge thereof as they may deem proper, until their examination and investigation shall be completed. The Commissioner and deputy shall also have authority to inspect public buildings, such as schoolhouses, churches, opera houses, theatres, hospitals, asylums, public halls, factories, hotels, apartment houses, and other buildings of like character, and to compel the owner or owners thereof, or the school board, board of governors, board of managers, trustees, or other public official, body or board having the supervision, management or control of any public, private or parochial schoolhouse or institution, to provide sufficient fire escapes or other means of exit as he shall direct for the benefit and safety of the occupants of said buildings, and the said Commissioner or his deputy shall give thirty days' notice to the owner or owners, school board, board of governors, board of managers, trustees, or other public official, body or board having supervision, management or control of such buildings to provide such fire escapes or other means of exit as in his judgment shall be deemed necessary. Failure or refusal of the said owner or owners, school board, board of governors, board of managers, trustees, or other public official, body or board having supervision, management or control of said buildings to comply with the said notice, shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor, and the Commissioner or his deputy is hereby authorized to close said building or buildings and deny admission to all persons until his order or orders shall have been complied with, and shall arrest or cause the said person or persons, members of any school board, board of governors, board of managers, public official, or members composing any body or board having the supervision, management or control of such buildings, schoolhouses or institutions, to be arrested, and upon conviction before any justice of the peace of the city or county of the State of Maryland wherein the owner or owners, members of any school board, board of governors, board of managers, public official, or members composing any body or board having the supervision, management or control of such buildings, schoolhouses or institutions, reside, or the respective building or buildings may be located, shall pay a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or less than twenty-five dollars for each offense, and an additional fine of five dollars for each and every day thereafter that such violation shall continue; and if the accused shall feel himself aggrieved by the judgment of the justice of the peace, he shall have the right of appeal to the circuit court for the county or the criminal court of Baltimore City having jurisdiction and be entitled to a jury trial. This Article, however, shall not conflict with any existing laws or ordinances in any of the towns or cities of the State of Maryland that fully cover the subject matter dealt with in this section.