

57. EXAMINATION OF PERSONS AND PREMISES. The Commissioner and his deputy shall have power to subpoena witnesses, and to compel their attendance before him or them to testify in relation to any matter which is, by the provision of this Article, a subject of inquiry and investigation by the Commissioner or deputy, and shall also have power to cause to be produced before him or them such papers as he or they may require in making such examination. The Commissioner and deputy shall be and they are hereby authorized to administer oaths and affirmations to persons 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 Act, 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