

CHAP. 709

Repeal and
re-enact.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Chapter 248, of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, of the session of 1894, be and the same are hereby repealed, and hereby re-enacted, so as to read as follows :

Duty of fire
marshal or
deputy fire
marshal.

Section 2. *And be it enacted,* It shall be the duty of the said fire marshal or the deputy fire marshal hereinafter created to examine into the causes, circumstances and origin of all fires occurring within the State to which his attention may be called, and which, in his judgment, requires examination; and in making said examinations the said fire marshal or deputy fire marshal may, when in his judgment said proceedings are necessary, take the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts, or to have the means of knowledge in relation to the matters herein required to be examined and inquired into, and to cause the said testimony to be reduced to writing; and when, in his judgment, such examination discloses that the fire was of incendiary origin, the fire marshal or deputy fire marshal may cause the supposed incendiary to be arrested and charged with the crime; and shall transmit a copy of the testimony so taken to the State's attorney for the county or city wherein said fire occurred; and upon the request of the owner or insurer of any property destroyed or injured by fire, the said fire marshal or deputy fire marshal shall make a written report to the person requesting the same of the result of the examination made by him regarding said property; and said fire marshal shall annually report to the Governor the results of all examinations made by him and the deputy fire marshal.

May subpoena
witnesses.

Section 3. *And be it enacted,* That the fire marshal and deputy fire marshal, in the absence of the fire marshal, 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 provisions of this Act, a subject of inquiry and investigation by the said fire marshal or deputy fire marshal, 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 examinations; the said fire marshal and deputy fire marshal, in the absence of the fire marshal, shall be and they are hereby authorized to administer oaths and affirmations to persons appearing as witnesses before him, or them;