

azines, houses, cars, boats, conveyances, and all other places in which explosives or ingredients are manufactured, transported, stored, or used. The [Commissioner] *State Fire Marshal* is authorized to investigate all explosives, accidents, or fires, in which there is reason to believe that explosives were involved. The [Commissioner] *State Fire Marshal* may in his discretion report his findings in such manner as he may deem fit to the proper federal or State authorities to the end that if such explosion has been brought about by a willful act, the person or persons causing such act may be proceeded against and brought to justice; or, if the explosion has been brought about by accidental means, that precautions may be taken to prevent similar accidents from occurring. In the prosecution of such investigations the employees under the direction of the [Commissioner] *State Fire Marshal* are hereby granted the authority to enter the premises where such explosion or fire has occurred, to examine plans, books and papers, to administer oaths to, and to examine all witnesses and persons concerned, without let or hindrance on the part of the owner, lessee, operator, or agent thereof.

[30] 34. Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this subtitle, or any rule or regulation made hereunder, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for a term of not more than six months, or shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or both.

[31] 35. Exceptions.

The *licensing* provisions of this subtitle shall not apply to the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard, the State Guard, or to officers or employees of the United States or of this State or of any political subdivision thereof, who are authorized to handle explosives in the performance of their duties.

Nothing contained in this subtitle shall apply to explosives while being transported upon vessels, vehicles or railroad cars, or while being held for delivery, provided such transportation and delivery is subject to and in conformity with the regulations prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission or [the Bureau of Marine Inspection, Department of Commerce of the United States of America] *United States Coast Guard* and provided, further, that nothing in this subtitle shall apply to the receipt, possession and use of signals required for the safe operation of vessels, motor vehicles, railroad cars or aircraft, by the operators of such vessels, motor vehicles, railroad cars and aircraft.

[32] 36. Severability.

If any provision of this subtitle or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the subtitle which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this subtitle are declared to be severable.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the State Fire Prevention Code initially promulgated by the State Fire Prevention Commission shall be based upon and essentially similar to a Code prepared by the Assistant Fire Marshal prior to the passage of this Act.*