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The State Fire Prevention Commission shall transmit [annually] to the Governor and to the Secretary of [Public Safety and Correctional Services] THE STATE POLICE by September thirtieth of each year an annual report of its activities.

7.

(a) (1) The office of State Fire Marshal is established as [part] AN AGENCY of the Department of [Public Safety and Correctional Services] STATE POLICE.

(2) (i) The Secretary of [Public Safety and Correctional Services] THE STATE POLICE shall appoint a State Fire Marshal for a six-year term from a list of 3 names submitted by the State Fire Prevention Commission.

(ii) The Fire Marshal is in the unclassified service of the State Personnel Management System and can be removed by the Secretary of [Public Safety and Correctional Services] THE STATE POLICE, at any time, for neglect of duty or other conduct unbecoming the office. The Commission may recommend to the Secretary the removal of the Fire Marshal for cause. Prior to removal, the Fire Marshal shall be given timely notice by the Secretary with a statement of the charges and an opportunity in person or by counsel for a public hearing thereon.

(iii) The State Fire Marshal shall receive the salary provided in the State budget.

(iv) The State Fire Marshal shall be appointed in accordance with the following qualifications:

1. Graduation from an accredited college or university[, with specialized study in either the field of fire protection or engineering]; and

2. Five years of recent progressively responsible experience in fire prevention inspection, fire investigation, fire safety promotion, fire protection engineering, teaching fire safety engineering, or fire fighting, three years of which must have been at the administrative level.

(b) The State Fire Marshal, by delegation of authority vested in the State Fire Prevention Commission and within policy established by the State Fire Prevention Commission, has all responsibility for the implementation of fire safety programs in the State designated to minimize fire hazards and disasters and loss of life and property from these causes. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the establishment and enforcement of fire safety practices throughout the State, preventive inspection and correction activities, coordination of fire safety programs with volunteer and paid fire companies, and other State agencies and political subdivisions exercising enforcement aspects, and critical analysis and evaluation of Maryland fire loss statistics for determination of problems and solutions.

(c) (1) A fire marshal or appropriate fire official legally designated by a county or municipal corporation of the State shall serve as assistant State fire marshal, without compensation, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this article, including issuance of orders, in that county or municipal corporation. Where there is no legally