

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; 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 designated fire marshal in a county or municipal corporation, the State Fire Marshal shall carry out the provisions of this article therein.

(i) The minimum qualifications for an assistant State fire marshal shall be the completion of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1031 - Fire Inspector I or the equivalent, as determined by the State Fire Marshal. However, all legally appointed deputy State fire marshals or special deputy State fire marshals serving as of July 1, 1985, are exempt from the minimum standard provisions of this section. The State Fire Marshal may administer an examination based upon NFPA 1031 before a person is certified as an assistant State fire marshal.

(ii) Upon recommendation of the State Fire Marshal, an assistant or special assistant State fire marshal may be removed after an administrative hearing for just cause by a majority decision of the State Fire Prevention Commission.

(2) Upon the advice of an assistant State fire marshal, the State Fire Marshal may designate as a special assistant State fire marshal, a member of any fire department, duly organized and operating in this State, if the designee is a full-time employee of the fire department and performs fire inspections or fire investigations.