

Special Fund Appropriation .....

54,100

1,633,286

1,583,286

FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION AND FIRE MARSHAL

35.13.00.01 Fire Prevention Services

General Fund Appropriation, provided that no funds may be expended for the purpose of providing fire safety inspections of foster care homes as requested by the Department of Human Resources. Due to manpower shortages, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has estimated that over 70% of the 25,609 estimated structures subject to inspection, exclusive of foster care homes, cannot be reviewed. To ensure public fire safety, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Office of the State Fire Marshal should direct resources to the inspection of non residential structures, as required by law. Further provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that foster care homes should be inspected for fire safety, but that these inspections should be performed by private fire safety inspectors a substantial percentage of structures subject to inspection, exclusive of foster care homes, cannot be reviewed. Further, the backlog of family day care home inspections was expected to increase from 256 to 1,400 by the end of fiscal year 1992. To ensure public fire safety it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Office of the State Fire Marshal should direct resources to the inspection of non-residential structures, as required by law, and develop a pilot program to allow for the use of private companies and/or individuals to perform certain fire safety inspections. The study should address the use of privatization by other states for fire safety inspections; an assessment as to whether there are currently any organizations and/or individuals in Maryland who would be capable of performing inspections; criteria by which