

# SENATE BILL 481

E4, C5

1lr1998  
CF 1lr1997

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By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Fire Marshal – Investigations – Reporting Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Fire Marshal to report to the Public Service  
4 Commission with an update of a certain investigation within a certain number of  
5 days after a fire or explosion or attempt to cause a fire or explosion; requiring the  
6 State Fire Marshal to provide the Commission with subsequent updates on the  
7 investigation within a certain number of days after the previous update until the  
8 investigation is concluded; requiring an update to include the status of the  
9 investigation and the expected date on which the investigation will conclude; and  
10 generally relating to investigations of a fire or explosion or attempt to cause a fire or  
11 explosion.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Public Safety  
14 Section 6–309  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Public Safety**

20 6–309.

21 (a) At any time, the State Fire Marshal may investigate the origin or  
22 circumstances of a fire or explosion or an attempt to cause a fire or explosion that occurs in  
23 the State.

24 (b) At any time, the State Fire Marshal:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (1)     may enter into and examine a building or premises where a fire is  
2 burning or where a fire or attempt to cause a fire has occurred;

3           (2)     may enter into a building or premises adjacent to a building or premises  
4 where a fire or attempt to cause a fire has occurred; and

5           (3)     may take full control and custody of the building or premises and place  
6 an individual that the State Fire Marshal considers proper in charge of the building or  
7 premises, until the examination and investigation of the State Fire Marshal is completed.

8           **(C) (1) THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL SHALL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC**  
9 **SERVICE COMMISSION WITH AN UPDATE OF AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED UNDER**  
10 **THIS SECTION:**

11                   **(I) WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE FIRE OR EXPLOSION OR**  
12 **ATTEMPT TO CAUSE A FIRE OR EXPLOSION; AND**

13                   **(II) EVERY 90 DAYS THEREAFTER UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION IS**  
14 **CONCLUDED.**

15           **(2) THE UPDATE SHALL INCLUDE:**

16                   **(I) THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION; AND**

17                   **(II) THE EXPECTED DATE ON WHICH THE INVESTIGATION WILL**  
18 **CONCLUDE.**

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2021.