

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

SB 387 Fire Marshal Qualifications

February 14th, 2012 Hearing

Good morning Chairman Brungardt and fellow committee members. My name is Kevin Flory, and I am the 1st Vice President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association. Our association represents the approximately 16,000 members of the Kansas Fire Service both paid and volunteer, firefighter and chief officer. I am writing today to ask you to support SB 387 in its current form. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a vital source of resources for the Kansas Fire Service. The leader of that office should be an individual of competent administrative skills and the drive that comes with serving in the public safety sector. Public Safety is a desire driven work force. That desire cant be had through higher learning or experience. It is something that a person must have within themselves. The change of the language to remove the word fire is an acceptable change so long as the process of the appointment and review stays as is currently written. That process will still allow for the fire service of the state to have input to our elected officials prior to a confirmation of a Fire Marshal. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and taking the time to hear from the Kansas Fire Service.