

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

---

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

---

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairman Barker and the Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 12, 2021  
RE: House Bill 2415

HB 2415 would require an investigation whenever the death of a person occurred because of fire. The investigation would be initiated by the chief of the organized fire department or the chief law enforcement officer regarding the circumstances of the death. The bill would also expand the law enforcement powers of the state fire marshal.

Under current law, the state fire marshal and the state fire marshal's deputies and full-time fire prevention personnel assigned investigation duties have the authority to make arrests, carry firearms and conduct searches and seizures while investigating any fire or explosion in which arson or attempted arson is suspected or in which there is an attempt or suspected attempt to defraud an insurance company.

HB 2415 would authorize the state fire marshal and investigators of the state fire marshal to make arrests and conduct searches and seizures while investigating violations of laws enforced or administered by the state fire marshal. Investigators who were certified law enforcement officers would be authorized to enforce all criminal laws of the state as they encountered violations of those laws in the course of their employment.

Lastly, the bill would clarify that any clothing or equipment intended to protect firefighters that was sold or purchased would be required to comply with the standards of the national fire protection association that are adopted by the state fire marshal through rules and regulations.