

State's General Fund liability for subsequent injuries can be terminated. It is therefore our recommendation that the appropriate constitutional amendment be presented to the electorate.

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

ITEM 151 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 504  
Budget line No. 6

**For Support of State Fire Marshal From the General Fund**

Amount requested .....	\$308,030
Estimated to be expended in 1952-53 Fiscal Year .....	280,277
<b>Increase (9.9 percent) .....</b>	<b>\$27,753</b>

**Summary of Increase**

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages .....	\$16,719	\$12,723	\$3,996	504	78
Operating expense .....	2,690	2,690	---	505	17
Equipment .....	8,344	6,744	1,600	505	19
<b>Total increase .....</b>	<b>\$27,753</b>	<b>\$22,157</b>	<b>\$5,596</b>		

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amount budgeted .....	\$308,030
Legislative Auditor's recommendation .....	302,434
<b>Reduction .....</b>	<b>\$5,596</b>

**ANALYSIS**

The cost of the activities of the Office of the Fire Marshal is proposed to be increased during the 1953-54 Fiscal Year by \$27,753 or approximately 9.9 percent over the cost of the level of activity authorized by the Legislature for the current fiscal year. The increase is occasioned partially by normal merit salary adjustments for the existing authorized staff and increases in operating expenses and equipment occasioned both by the anticipation of certain price rises and the need to replace three automobiles, but largely as a result of the proposal that the staff be increased by three positions, two of which would be deputy state fire marshals, Grade I, and one would be a fire prevention engineer.

The additional positions are being justified by the Office of the Fire Marshal on the basis of a presumed work load. In support of the work load numerous tables have been submitted which, as in prior years, we find difficult to accept both as to accuracy and premise. For instance, in one table there is indicated that the total number of public and private school occupancies for the 1951-52 Fiscal Year was 2,330, a figure designated as an actual count for that fiscal year. For the same field year the total number of units of work actually expended in field inspections and enforcement was 40,158. A unit of work is described, for ease in calculation, as a period of six minutes. For the current 1952-53 Fiscal Year the total number of occupancies is indicated as 2,075. For the 1953-54 Fiscal Year the figure 2,330 is again indicated and footnoted to the effect that this number was obtained from county records for 1952 and that no estimates are made of increases in occupancy that will obviously occur. Nevertheless, for the 1953-54 Fiscal Year, it is estimated that the number of work units necessary to provide field

surveys and inspection is 130,529. These figures reduced to average actual time spent per occupancy indicate approximately one hour and 45 minutes in the 1951-52 Fiscal Year and an average of five hours and 30 minutes per occupancy in the 1953-54 Fiscal Year. More detailed data on the school occupancies supplied in a letter to the Director of Finance, dated September 8, 1952, and signed by the Fire Marshal, indicates that for the 1953-54 Fiscal Year it is estimated that 1,073 original or first-time surveys of school occupancies will be made. This would indicate that almost half of the total number of occupancies which lie within the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal have never been surveyed, or that perhaps the figure indicates, partially, occupancies that have never been surveyed and, partially, occupancies that are expected to come into existence for the first time during the 1953-54 Fiscal Year. In either case, the figure is difficult to accept.

In view of the fact that we find the data supplied by the Office of the Fire Marshal to be questionable as to accuracy and premise, we believe that the only basis which we can recommend as an approach to the problem would be to assume that the work load of the Office of the Fire Marshal is paralleled by the population growth of the State. Consequently, if we assume that the staff of 29, authorized for the Fiscal Years 1950-51 and 1951-52, was adequate, and by the work load figures supplied for those years by the Office of the Fire Marshal this appears to be a reasonable assumption, then a percentage increase in the staff, equal to the percentage increase in the population of the State, particularly of the age group from infancy through 17 would be a reasonable staff increase to take care of the estimated increase in work load. We find that the estimated increase of general state population from the 1951-52 Fiscal Year through the 1953-54 Fiscal Year is approximately six percent and for the infancy through 17 age group for the same period the increase is approximately nine percent. Since a large part of the field work load is involved in school inspections, we believe that the latter percentage would be the proper one to use, which in this case would justify an increase of three positions over the 29 which were authorized for the 1951-52 Fiscal Year. However, since one position, that of a deputy state fire marshal, grade I, was allowed during the current fiscal year, making a total of 30, then only two additional positions would be justified for the 1953-54 Fiscal Year.

*Consequently, we recommend that one position of deputy state fire marshal, grade I, be disapproved as well as the additional car proposed for this position.* This would result in a saving of \$5,596 plus any additional sums in operating expenses and other additional equipment specifically included in the budget for this position.

We call attention to the fact that the bulk of the field work of the Office of the Fire Marshal occurs in unincorporated areas, and consequently, it may be said that a large part of the cost of the Office of the Fire Marshal is involved in the extensive problem which results from the fact that large unincorporated areas receive services paid for by the general state taxpayer which in incorporated areas is paid for by the local taxpayer who also pays general state taxes. It would appear that any study given to this problem of special state services to unincorporated areas should include a serious consideration of the field work of the Office of the Fire Marshal.