

House Bill 1471

By: Representative Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 25-2-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fire  
2 safety standards and fire safety enforcement, so as to change provisions relating to the  
3 investigatory authority of local governments and the state fire marshal; to provide for related  
4 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 25-2-12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fire safety  
8 standards and fire safety enforcement, is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting  
9 new paragraphs (6) and (6.1) to read as follows:

10 "(6) Every such local governing authority shall be responsible for investigating all cases  
11 of arson and other suspected incendiary fires within its jurisdiction, shall have the duties  
12 and powers authorized by Code Sections 25-2-27, 25-2-28, and 25-2-29 in carrying out  
13 such responsibility, and shall submit quarterly reports to the state fire marshal containing  
14 fire-loss data regarding all fires whether accidental or incendiary within its jurisdiction.  
15 ~~The state fire marshal shall have the authority to initiate any arson investigation upon~~  
16 ~~request of any such local governing authority and he shall provide assistance to the~~  
17 ~~requesting authority regarding any of the duties and responsibilities required by this~~  
18 ~~paragraph.~~

19 (6.1) The state fire marshal shall have the authority to initiate any arson investigation or  
20 fire inspection regarding life safety code issues within any jurisdiction. Any local  
21 governing authority in the state may request assistance from the state fire marshal's office  
22 for any arson investigation, fire inspection, or any other hazards covered by this chapter."

23 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

24 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
25 without such approval.

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**SECTION 3.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.