



Senate Bill 389
An Act Concerning Fire Marshals

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Public Safety & Security Committee
March 8, 2016

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) houses the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the State Building Inspector, which are responsible for State Fire Safety Code, State Fire Prevention Code, the State Building Code and other code-related matters. **DAS has concerns about Senate Bill 389, "An Act Concerning Fire Marshals" as currently drafted.**

Senate Bill 389 proposes to amend the local fire marshal statute pertaining to reports and schedules on local inspections; and, specifically, states:

(2) The State Fire Marshal may adopt amendments to the Fire Safety Code and the State Fire Prevention Code to reduce the frequency of inspections of fire suppression equipment located in the kitchen of a restaurant to once each calendar year. The State Fire Marshal shall consider the frequency of use of such equipment. For purposes of this subsection, "restaurant" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (f) of section 30-22.

(Lines 11-17)

The Office of State Fire Marshal seeks clarification from the Committee on the intent of this proposal. The current code already requires testing and maintenance based on the frequency of use and the type and volume of cooking taking place.

To the extent this proposal merely reflects that the State Fire Marshal has the discretion to consider the possibility of reducing inspection schedules for certain kinds of facilities, but does not mandate any such reduction, this proposal is innocuous. For example, facilities that utilize their kitchens infrequently may merit this consideration. **We are opposed, however, to any attempts to mandate the reduction of fire inspections at commercial restaurants.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment