

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

ITEMS 140 and 141 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 552

**FOR SUPPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND DRY
CLEANERS FUND**

Amount requested in Budget Bill.....		\$972,216
Budget request before identified adjustments.....	\$1,010,540	
Increase to recognize full workload change.....	55,811	
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Budget as adjusted for workload change.....	\$1,066,351	
Adjustment—undetailed reduction (10 percent).....	94,135	
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RECOMMENDED REDUCTION FROM WORKLOAD BUDGET.....		\$40,490
BALANCE OF UNDETAILED REDUCTION—REVIEW PENDING		\$53,645

Summary of Recommended Reductions

	<i>Amount</i>
1 Deputy state fire marshal II.....	\$8,124
1 Deputy state fire marshal III.....	10,356
1 Fire prevention engineer.....	12,588
1 Intermediate stenographer.....	4,860
Temporary help.....	1,900
Staff benefits.....	2,662

GENERAL PROGRAM STATEMENT

The principal functions of the office of the State Fire Marshal are to foster, promote and develop ways and means of protecting life and property against fire and panic.

The legal authority for the duties performed and the responsibilities of the Fire Marshal are set forth in the Health and Safety Code, Penal Code and the Vehicle Code. The rules, regulations and standards established by the Fire Marshal are contained in the California Administrative Code, Title 19, Public Safety.

The major workload of the department is to plan reviews and fire inspection of occupancies as listed in Sections 13108, 13143 and 13250 of the Health and Safety Code to determine compliance with certain minimum fire and safety requirements. Other duties include certifying transportation of flammable liquids; fireworks licensing; equipment and construction materials listings; fire extinguisher licensing; wearing apparel and flame retardants registration; establishing routes for transportation of explosives; and fire prevention, protection and suppression training.

The organizational structure of the office of the State Fire Marshal consists of three functional units: Administration with 3 positions, Business Services with 26.6 positions and Fire Prevention with 61.5 positions.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The amount requested in the Budget Bill is \$972,216, a decrease of \$19,159 as compared to the amount estimated to be expended in the current fiscal year. The amount of \$125,000 is from the Dry Cleaners Fund and \$847,216 from the General Fund.

The activities of the staff for 1965-66 are summarized in the table below.

State Fire Marshal—Continued

<i>Type of facility</i>	<i>Site inspections</i>	<i>Plan reviews</i>
State facilities (including U.C., state colleges, state institutions and other state-owned)-----	367	356
City and county facilities-----	224	10
Hospitals-----	2,369	1,682
Welfare facilities-----	2,671	317
Camps-----	124	2
Schools-----	2,449	31
Public assembly facilities-----	1,712	28
Total-----	9,916	2,426
Man-years-----	28.8	6.6
Productivity-----	344	368
Clothes cleaning facilities-----	6,354	755
Man-years-----	5.56	1.39
Productivity-----	1,143	544

The proposed increase of \$55,811 to recognize full workload consists of \$13,108 for operating expenses, \$2,213 for equipment and \$40,490 for personal services. We cannot support the increase for personal services which we have been advised consists of one deputy state fire marshal II, one deputy state fire marshal III, one fire prevention engineer, one stenographer position and temporary help.

The justification for one deputy state fire marshal II is based on the continuing population expansion. This position would be used in the field staff which now has 51 deputy state fire marshals. This justification does not appear to warrant an addition to the present staff.

The proposed new position of one deputy state fire marshal III is requested for the training function in state institutions. There are 29 institutions that have fire departments headed by a chief. We are told that these fire departments are well trained and to our knowledge no incidents have been reported which were caused by lack of training of these fire departments in the institutions. At present each institution receives instruction once every two years. With the additional position instruction would be given to all institutions once every year. We do not believe this is necessary.

A proposed new position of fire prevention engineer is requested to do continuing studies and analyses in the areas of fire prevention, protection and suppression to determine the adequacy of existing fire safety regulations and standards and to upgrade existing regulations to permit the use of new materials and equipment. It is our understanding that these duties are being done by the existing staff and no data have been presented to us showing that these duties are not now being performed satisfactorily by the present staff.

The proposed new position of intermediate stenographer is requested contingent upon the approval of the now technical positions. Temporary help in the amount of \$1,900 is without justification.

We recommend disapproval of the above positions in the amount of \$40,490, including staff benefits, for salaries and wages. The Department of Finance should adjust other costs relating to these positions.