Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Bureau of Fire Services

Fire Marshal Bulletin – 7

State Fire Safety Board

The State Fire Safety Board (SFSB) was created in 1965 with amendments to Act No. 207 of the Public Acts of 1941. The SFSB is housed within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), Bureau of Fire Services (BFS). Board membership is specified within the legislation, and currently includes seventeen positions appointed by the Governor. The membership of the SFSB is representative of the Michigan fire service and the organizations affected by the administrative rules promulgated by the Board.

The primary charge to the SFSB is promulgating the administrative rules necessary for implementation or application of laws that are enforced or administered by the BFS. The majority of these rules apply to: health care facilities; penal institutions; schools; places of public assemblage; dry cleaners using flammable or combustible liquids; state owned or leased buildings; adult foster care facilities; and dormitories.

Ad hoc committees are appointed by the State Fire Marshal to assist the BFS and the SFSB in development of new rules and updating of existing rules. These committees are composed of people working in the areas affected by proposed rules. After the ad hoc committees present draft rules to the Board, the formal administrative rule process begins and follows the procedures outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969.

Requests for rule variances may be made to the State Fire Marshal, and modifications may be granted if the BFS is convinced that a variance would not create a hazard to life or property and maintains an equivalent level of fire safety. When a contested case arises from a variance denial, the Board acts as a hearing body and may modify a decision or interpretation of the BFS if the BFS's decision or interpretation is contrary to the spirit or purpose of the rule, or is not in the best interest of the public. A document describing the appeal request procedure is available from the Board.

Proposals, Questions, Interpretations

To assist individuals who wish to make fire safety proposals, who need questions answered about fire safety rules, or who need interpretations of fire safety rules, the following information is requested: name; address; phone number; agency or facility represented; rule title and rule number; rule language in question; statement of the

problem; recommended text or new rule proposal; and substantiation of proposal. Please send this information to:

Bureau of Fire Services
State Fire Safety Board
P.O. Box 30700
Lansing, Michigan 48909

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the BFS, Bureau of Fire Services at (517) 241-8847.

Please be advised that as a recipient of the BFS Bulletins, you are free to treat the contents as a news release in your name to the local news media or any other means of circulation.