

Testimony Regarding SB 353
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal
February 14, 2018

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here today and present testimony in support of SB 353. SB 353 would transfer all monies and liabilities in the Boiler Inspection Fee Fund and any future revenues from the boiler inspection program, to the Fire Marshal Fee Fund for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The bill would abolish the Boiler Inspection Fee Fund.

Passage of the bill would do two things. First, it would reduce the amount of accounting and time involved to accept fees into a separate fund to pay expenses for the boiler inspection program. Our office has made many improvements to the current boiler inspection program since taking it over few years ago. We have either collected or have written off a large amount of debt that was owed and we changed the inspection process to make sure no further debt would be accrued by the state. We were also able to reduce the administrative staff assigned to the program from two positions to one.

Secondly, this change would possibly allow our office to discontinue collecting fees for the boiler program and assume the costs for the program completely from the Fire Marshal Fee Fund. If successful with the discontinuation of collecting the fees, it would return approximately \$600,000 to business and building owners across the state. The reduction /discontinuing of the fees however, will depend on the future of the sweeps in our FY19 and future budgets.