

cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed, and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the said fire marshal. The fire marshal shall keep in his office a record of all fires occurring in the Commonwealth, together with all facts, statistics and circumstances, including the origin of the fires, which may be determined by the investigations provided for by this act; such record shall at all times be open to public inspection, and such portions of it as the insurance commissioner may deem necessary shall be transcribed and forwarded to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

SECTION 3.—It shall be the duty of said fire marshal to examine or cause examination to be made into the cause, circumstances and origin of all fires occurring within the Commonwealth, to which his attention has been called in accordance with the provisions of section two of this act, by which property is accidentally or unlawfully burned, destroyed or damaged, and to specially examine and decide whether the fire was the result of carelessness or the act of an incendiary. The said fire marshal shall, when in his opinion said proceedings are necessary, take or cause to be taken the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters as to which an examination is herein required to be made, and shall cause the same to be reduced to writing; and if he shall be of opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson he shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall furnish to the proper district attorney all such evidence, together with the names of witnesses and all the information obtained by him, including a copy of all pertinent and material testimony taken in the case; and he shall report to the insurance commissioner, as often as such commissioner shall require, his proceedings and the progress made in all prosecutions for arson, and the result of all cases which are finally disposed of.

SECTION 4.—The fire marshal and deputy fire marshal shall each have the powers of a trial justice for the purpose of summoning and compelling the attendance of witnesses before them or either of them, to testify in relation to any matter which is, by the provisions of this act, a subject of inquiry and investigation. Said fire marshal and deputy fire marshal may also administer oaths and affirmations to persons appearing as witnesses before them; and false swearing in any matter or proceeding aforesaid shall be deemed perjury, and shall be punished as such. Said fire marshal and his subordinates shall have authority, at all times of the day or night, in the performance of the duties imposed by the provisions of this act, to enter upon and examine any building or premises where any fire has occurred, and other buildings and premises adjoining or near the same. All investigations held by or under the direction of the fire marshal may in his discretion be private, and persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such investigation is held, and witnesses may be kept separate