

**Written Testimony
SB 387**

**Robert W. McLemore, President, Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs
Presented to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
March, 13, 2012**

I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs (KSAFC). We have a neutral stance on SB 387 but believe that guidelines to assure qualified people are appointed to the position of Kansas State Fire Marshal are needed and appropriate. I am concerned that the current proposed change is too ambiguous in providing direction to future administrations for the qualifications needed for a State Fire Marshal.

In the past the KSAFC supported language that attempted to quantify the qualifications for State Fire Marshal to improve the applicant pool for that position. History has shown that past Fire Marshals have not always had the skills to lead and manage the office appropriately. It has also shown that the last two interim appointments were up to the task and have done an excellent job in leading the office. It is safe to say that the Fire Service has been very happy with the job they have done.

There are common attributes that interim Fire Marshal Jorgenson and Maples have demonstrated that have been successful, public safety experience, ability to work with the Legislature, leadership skills, and knowledge in budgeting and administration. I find that the current language proposed is somewhat lacking and would hope that the above attributes could be expressed in this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectively

Robert McLemore, Chief
Colby Fire Department

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-13-12

Attachment # 4