



**MIKE CAUSEY**  
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER & STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**BRIAN TAYLOR**, CHIEF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

November 17, 2023

I am writing this letter to clarify recent legislative changes and provide assurance regarding any potential impact on the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

In recent developments, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 409 ([S409v3.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)) on October 25th, and it was subsequently signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on November 9th. This legislation has amended *Section 30.8(e) of SL 2023-134*. As a result, the Chief State Fire Marshal, who began serving on October 1, 2023, is now designated as the State Fire Marshal until the Commissioner of Insurance appoints the Independent State Fire Marshal on January 1, 2024, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly through a joint resolution. The Chief State Fire Marshal will possess the same powers as the Commissioner for executing the laws assigned to the State Fire Marshal and the Office. Furthermore, the legislative liaison who served on October 1, 2023, will continue to hold that position, if preferred, until the Office takes further action in accordance with the law. It is important to note that all employees, programs, and functions conducted by the Office will be maintained without any reduction in funds, responsibilities, or administrative support, as expressly authorized by the General Assembly. Additionally, the Office will maintain its affiliation with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, and the core mission of the OSFM remains unchanged: to focus on saving lives by preventing and mitigating risks to life and property for all citizens across the state.

Moreover, changes have been made to the Firefighter Benefit Pilot Program. Under the revised regulations, if a firefighter is diagnosed with a different type of cancer on or after January 1, 2022, even if that cancer metastasized from a cancer diagnosed prior to that date, they will be eligible for benefits. Conforming changes have also been made to reflect the new authority of the Office over the pilot program, while continuing the Third-Party Administration (TPA) for both cancer and workers' compensation programs.

I want to assure you that our existing policies, procedures, and programs will not undergo immediate changes. All ongoing actions and activities will continue without interruption. Commissioner Causey's vital role within the OSFM, characterized by his unwavering commitment to the Fire Service and other sections of OSFM, will remain unchanged. It is essential to emphasize that this change in status will not disrupt the collaborative relationship

**OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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we have long maintained with the Department of Insurance. We remain dedicated to working together, as we have in the past, to ensure the safety and security of North Carolina residents. I am honored and grateful that the NC General Assembly has trusted me to lead the State Fire Marshal's Office, and I look forward to continuing my service to the citizens of North Carolina. I am committed to pushing the agency forward as a model State Fire Marshal's Office in the country. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [brian.taylor@ncdoi.gov](mailto:brian.taylor@ncdoi.gov) or 919-218-5311.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the safety of life and property for the citizens of North Carolina and continue to be a model agency Nationwide.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BRIAN TAYLOR". The letters are in all caps and have a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Taylor  
Chief State Fire Marshal  
Office of State Fire Marshal  
North Carolina Department of Insurance