

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 27-34.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to police powers of fire*
3 *marshals.*

4 [H 1030]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 27-34.2:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 27-34.2:1. Police powers of fire marshals.

9 In addition to such other duties as may be prescribed by law, the local fire marshal and those
10 assistants appointed pursuant to § 27-36 designated by the fire marshal shall, if authorized by the
11 governing body of the county, city or town appointing the local fire marshal, have the same police
12 powers as a sheriff, police officer or law-enforcement officer. The investigation and prosecution of all
13 offenses involving *hazardous materials*, fires, fire bombings, bombings, attempts or threats to commit
14 such offenses, false alarms relating to such offenses, possession and manufacture of explosive devices,
15 substances and fire bombs shall be the responsibility of the fire marshal or his designee, if authorized by
16 the governing body of the county, city or town appointing the local fire marshal. The police powers
17 granted in this section shall not be exercised by any local fire marshal or assistant until such person has
18 satisfactorily completed a course for fire marshals with police powers, designed by the Department of
19 Fire Programs in cooperation with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, which course shall be
20 approved by the Virginia Fire Services Board.

21 In addition, fire marshals with police powers shall continue to exercise those powers only upon
22 satisfactory participation in in-service and advanced courses and programs designed by the Department
23 of Fire Programs in cooperation with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, which courses shall
24 be approved by the Virginia Fire Services Board.

ENROLLED

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