

HOUSE No. 2292

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to investigations of fires and explosions by the state fire marshal..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
2 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting, after section 3 the following new section:—
3 Section 3A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, whenever the marshal
4 has reason to believe that a fire or explosion of suspicious origin may be directly related to the
5 delivery of electricity or gas by an electric or gas company, as defined in M.G.L c. 164, he shall
6 have exclusive jurisdiction to investigate the cause and origin of said fire or explosion, until such
7 time as he has concluded his investigation. The marshal may require said electric or gas
8 company, as the case may be, to provide payment for laboratory analysis, as he shall deem
9 necessary, to carry out said investigation. The laboratory testing shall remain confidential and
10 not available to any persons, including said gas or electric companies or other regulatory
11 agencies until the marshal has concluded his investigation or sooner if the marshal has
12 determined the sharing of such information is in the public’s interest.