

CHAPTER 298.

AN ACT to repeal 200.19 (3); and to amend 200.19 (1), (2) and (4) and 200.20 (1) of the statutes, relating to investigation and report of fires.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 200.19 (1) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

200.19 (1) The chief of the fire department of every city and village, * * * the president of every village in which no fire department exists, and every town clerk * * * *may* investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in his city, village or town by which property has been destroyed or damaged when the damage exceeds \$25, and * * * *on* fires of unknown origin * * * *he* * * * *may* especially investigate as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness, accident or design. *Where any investigation discloses that such fire may be of incendiary origin, he shall report the same to the state fire marshal.*

(2) * * * The state fire marshal may supervise and direct such investigation whenever he deems it expedient.

SECTION 2. 200.19 (3) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 200.19 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

200.19 (4) The state fire marshal shall keep a record of all fires occurring in the state, * * * *which* shall be at all times open to public inspection.

SECTION 4. 200.20 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

200.20 (1) The state fire marshal shall, when in his opinion * * * investigation is necessary, take or cause to be taken the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have any means of knowledge in relation to the matter under investigation, and if he shall be of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, he shall cause such person to be prosecuted, and shall furnish the prosecuting attorney the names of all witnesses and all the information obtained by him, including a copy of all testimony taken in the investigation.

Approved June 6, 1951.
