



**CSFCA**

**Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association**

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**To:** Senate Judiciary Committee  
**From:** Paul L. Cooke, Executive Director  
**Subject:** HB10-1399, CBI Investigation Assistance to Fire Chiefs (Rep. Weissmann, Sen. Gibbs)  
**Date:** April 26, 2010

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## **Please Vote YES on House Bill 1399!**

### **Bill Will Authorize the CBI to Assist Fire Chiefs in the Investigation of Fires**

House Bill 1399 seeks to authorize the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to assist a chief of a fire department (or his/her designee) in the investigation of a fire related to the crime of arson.

Current law charges the chief of a fire protection district with the duty to enforce the laws of the state related to the suppression of arson and to investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin, and circumstance of fires occurring in their jurisdiction, and to seek prosecution when it is determined that a crime has been committed.

Colorado law also authorizes the CBI to assist any sheriff, chief of police, or other law enforcement authorities in the investigation and detection of crime and in the enforcement of the criminal laws of the state. However, the CBI is not specifically authorized by statute to provide such assistance to the chief of a fire department.

Despite the lack of clear statutory authority, it has been the longstanding practice of the CBI to provide fire investigation resources (particularly Arson K-9's) to a fire chief or his designee, upon request. In these cases, when it is believed a crime has occurred, local law enforcement officials are also notified.

This bill authorizes the CBI, upon request of the chief of a fire department, or his or her designee, to assist in the investigation of a possible crime related to arson. As amended by the House Judiciary Committee, the bill would require the fire department to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency that a request for assistance from CBI has been made.

HB10-1399 seeks to provide statutory authority to the CBI for what is essentially current practice. The Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association respectfully requests your favorable action on this bill and thus codifying this important public safety function of the CBI.

**"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"**