

Department of Planning and Budget
2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2573

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Stump

3. Committee H. Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title Coal mining safety; civil penalty.

5. Summary/Purpose:

This bill amends the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Act and the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to increase mine safety and address safety concerns, including notification of violations, qualifications of inspectors, new map designations, roof control plans, requirements for storage of explosives, clearance on haulage roads, operation of equipment, slope and shaft conditions, requirements for protective clothing, location of fire-fighting equipment, and increased safety examinations. The bill consolidates reporting requirements for impoundments or dams and requires that emergency evacuation plans be kept up to date. This bill also (i) requires ground control plans to ensure the safety of persons in any area that may be affected by blasting or falling, sliding, or other uncontrolled movement of material and (ii) increases the maximum civil penalty from \$5,000 to \$70,000 for violations that result in an injury or fatality to any person. This bill contains an emergency clause and will be effective upon passage.

6. Fiscal Impact are not significant:

According to the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME), this bill will have no significant fiscal impact. Administration of the modifications to the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Act and the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act will have minimal impact on agency operations and any such impacts can be absorbed within the agency's current appropriation.

Furthermore, any increase in revenues stemming from the increase in maximum civil penalties for violations that result in an injury or fatality to any person cannot be calculated since it is not possible to predict the number of future violations that will occur.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: See Item 6.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: The engrossed version of this bill makes several minor clarifications to the bill's language and strikes language outlining circumstances where operators of any surface coal mine, or his agent, shall submit a map of such mine to the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. The changes to the bill do not affect the fiscal impact.

Date: 01/24/05 / dma

Document: G:\Ga Sessions\2005 Session\2005 Fis\Hb2573e.Doc

cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade