

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1185

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

2. Patron: Phillips

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Coal mine safety.

5. Summary: This bill makes four main changes to the Coal Mine Safety Act: (1) Requires certified mine foremen to have advanced first aid training; surface foremen must take, at minimum, a 24-hour course of instruction in advanced first aid taught by a certified advanced first aid instructor. The substitute version of the bill states that no course or examination will be required for candidates who hold a higher level of emergency medical certification from the Virginia Department of Health. (2) Improves drug testing requirements to respond to changes in substance abuse habits of mine workers; mine operators are required to provide a written policy and review of rules, testing procedures, and disciplinary actions for noncompliance associated with the substance abuse screening program. (3) Streamlines requirements for dump stations to reflect on-the-ground conditions, and (4) modifies requirements for explosive magazines to reflect on-the-ground conditions.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: This proposal has no foreseeable budget impact on the state. It is anticipated that these changes will have a budget impact on coal mining companies operating in Virginia, as some of the provisions will raise expenses. For example, currently only about five percent of certified surface foremen have advanced first aid certification; new requirements in this proposal will mean that the remaining 640 or so surface foremen will have to take a 24-hour advanced first aid class, with the costs usually being borne by their employers. Surface foremen applying for new certification will have to pass the same course. This does not consider those foremen who hold a higher level of emergency medical certification from the Virginia Department of Health; which the substitute version of this bill exempts from the examination requirement.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Department of Health.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to the substitute version of SB561.

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