

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 45.1-243 of the Code of Virginia, relating to surface effects of*
3 *underground coal mining.*

4
5 Approved

[H 706]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 45.1-243 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 45.1-243. Surface effects of underground coal mining operations.

9 A. The Director shall promulgate regulations directed toward the surface effects of underground coal
10 mining operations embodying the requirements of §§ 516 and 720 (a) (1) of the federal act. The
11 provisions of this chapter relating to permits, bonds, inspections and enforcement, public review, and
12 administrative and judicial review shall be applicable to surface operations and surface impacts incident
13 to an underground coal mine with such modifications to the permit application requirements, permit
14 approval or denial procedures, and bond requirements as are necessary to accommodate the distinct
15 difference between surface and underground coal mining. Nothing in § 720 (a) (1) of the federal act
16 shall be construed to prohibit or interrupt underground coal mining operations.

17 B. *The Director's regulations shall require that permit applicants submit hydrologic reclamation*
18 *plans that include measures that will be utilized to prevent the sudden release of accumulated water*
19 *from underground workings.*

20 C. In order to protect the stability of the land, the Director shall suspend underground coal mining
21 under urbanized areas, cities, towns and communities, and adjacent to industrial or commercial
22 buildings, major impoundments, or permanent streams if he finds imminent danger to the inhabitants of
23 the urbanized areas, cities, towns and communities.

ENROLLED

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