

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2011 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1988

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Kilgore

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Property conveyances; mineral mining; ownership of underground void.

**5. Summary:** This bill broadens the existing statutory provision for ownership of the space opened underground by the removal of minerals and coal. The ownership of the space would, unless expressly reserved by the landowner, run with the mineral estate whether such estate is owned or leased, or created before or after 1981. In the event that the mineral estate terminates, the ownership interest of the mineral owner or mineral lessee in the space shall continue upon payment of an annual rental in the amount of \$5 per acre to the current estate owner. The provision has no effect on the determination of ownership rights in coalbed methane.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the state.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** January 26, 2011

c: Secretary of Commerce and Trade