

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB250

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

2. **Patron:**    Simonds

3. **Committee:** Rules

4. **Title:**    Mining and processing of certain minerals and elements; work group to study.

5. **Summary:** Directs the Secretaries of Natural and Historic Resources, Health and Human Resources, and Commerce and Trade to convene a work group study the mining and processing of copper, zinc, and lead in the Commonwealth and to report its findings to the General Assembly by December 1, 2023. The bill also places a moratorium until July 1, 2024, on the issuance of new permits to operate a mine for gold, copper, zinc, or lead of an area larger than 10 acres.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8, below.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Energy (DEN) estimates that a study of three minerals may result in an \$800,000 expenditure impact. The agency based this estimate on the cost of a recently completed study surrounding the mining one mineral, gold required by Chapter 423, 2021 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I. DEN anticipates that a study of the mining of three minerals will cost more than the study of one mineral.

It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Secretaries of Natural and Historic Resources, Health and Human Resources, and Commerce and Trade as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:**

11. **Other Comments:** None.