



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1155

PRINTERS NO. 2112

PRIME SPONSOR: Scarnati

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1155, Printer's Number 2112, amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act to establish the Aggregate Advisory Board.

ANALYSIS: This bill creates a new Aggregate Advisory Board to assist the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) expend funds for the purposes provided by the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (Act 219 of 1984), and to advise the secretary on all matters pertaining to surface mining, such as experimental practices, alternate methods of backfilling, obligations for preexisting pollution liability, alteration of reclamation plans, reclamation fees and bonding rates and methods.

The board shall be comprised of the DEP Secretary; three aggregate surface mining operators; four public members from the Citizens Advisory Council; one member from the County Conservation Districts; and four members of the General Assembly: two from the Senate and two from the House and each with one from the majority party, one from the minority party. The DEP Secretary shall chair the board and appoint the members from the aggregate industry.

The board shall also prepare an annual report on its activities for submission to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committees in both the House and Senate.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: The department projects that annual costs related to the operation of such an advisory board would be approximately \$28,000. This estimate is based upon actual costs related to another department advisory board called the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB). For example, travel reimbursement costs for MRAB members totaled \$2,880 in 2013, while staff costs to perform the board liaison's duties are estimated to be about \$25,000 annually.

Any costs associated with the operation of this new advisory board would have no impact on the General Fund. All costs would be charged to the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Fund as authorized under Section 17 of Act 219 of 1984. It should be noted that the fund is projected to have an ending balance of \$9.9 million at the end of FY 2014-15.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: September 19, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.