

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 608

PRINTER'S NO. 592

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Surface Mining Conservation & Reclamation Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 9, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Brooks

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, Feb. 10, 2011

Reported as committed, March 9, 2011

First consideration, March 9, 2011

Laid on the table, March 9, 2011

Removed from table, May 11, 2011

Laid on the table, May 11, 2011

Removed from table, May 24, 2011

Second consideration, May 25, 2011

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, May 25, 2011

Re-reported as committed, June 6, 2011

Third consideration and final passage, June 6, 2011 (198-0)

In the Senate

Referred to ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, June 7, 2011

Reported as committed, Oct. 25, 2011

First consideration, Oct. 25, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Dec. 12, 2011

Re-reported as committed, June 4, 2012

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 608 amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act to encourage and promote the planting of bioenergy crops as acceptable cover in reclaiming lands affected by surface mining.

The legislation requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to encourage and promote the use of switchgrass, camelina, canola or other bioenergy crops as acceptable cover in reclaiming lands affected by surface mining. It requires DEP to make available, at no cost to the permittee of a remaining site, sum-certain guarantees to cover Stage III reclamation liability under their reclamation bond, as long as the site is revegetated using bioenergy crops.

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FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

No adverse fiscal impact will result from the enactment of this legislation. The bill requires DEP to make available sum-certain guarantees to cover Stage III reclamation liability under a permittee's reclamation bond, to the extent funds are either appropriated or available from its appropriation as part of Act 6A of 2001. This was a \$7 Million appropriation for conservation purposes to implement full-cost bonding, which was subsequently transferred into a restricted receipts account in the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Fund, and remains available for such purposes.