

HB 3563

Relating to requirements for engaging in surface mining

HB 3563 increases the statutory limits on fees related to mining operations and establishes a fee for an exclusion certificate for small mining operations. The fee increases are anticipated to generate approximately \$600,000 Other Funds revenue for the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Mined Land Reclamation Program. It has been ten years since the fees were last increased, and the programs expenses have exceeded revenues during that time.

The budget bill for the Department assumes passage of these fees in order to cover operating costs of the program. As noted in the budget bill, the Department will be reviewing all fee structures and program costs to verify the necessary revenue levels required for operation and sustainability, and will be reporting back to the Legislature in February 2016.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 3563 be reported out do pass.