

SB 5512

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

SB 5512 is the budget bill for the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends a budget of \$4.1 million General Fund, \$6.1 million Other Funds, and \$5.3 million Federal Funds for a total biennial budget of \$15.6 million, including 42 positions or 41.16 full-time equivalent jobs. The budget is a 4% increase from the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget.

The budget includes General Fund investments to stabilize funding for subject matter expertise in the geologic hazards programs within the agency; the establishment of a Grants Coordinator position that will facilitate and track the increasing complexity of project grants received from multiple sources and varying fund types; eliminates three positions related to the budget and accounting functions of the agency with the Department contracting with DAS to provide these functions.

The budget also establishes a separate Other Funds limitation amount for the Mined Land Reclamation Program and assumes a fee increase for mining operations contained in House Bill 3563. The budget contains three budget notes, involving the agency reporting back to the Legislature in 2016 on a number of issues.

The budget includes one-time funding of \$770,000 General Fund to provide the necessary state match for a LIDAR project with the US Geological Survey scheduled to take place in summer of 2015.

The budget includes an increase to the 2013-2015 legislatively approved budget of \$800,000 General Fund to support current operations and backfill a shortfall in revenue from Other Funds and Federal Funds sources.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5512 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass as amended.