

B-Engrossed
House Bill 3089

Ordered by the House July 1
Including House Amendments dated April 14 and July 1

Sponsored by Representatives BENTZ, WITT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to conduct study of mineral resource potential of [*all geographic areas of state except Willamette Valley*] **eastern and southern Oregon counties** and present report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources on or before September 15, 2016.

Requires department to post report on website.

Increases, for biennium beginning July 1, 2015, appropriation from General Fund to State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, for purpose of carrying out study.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mining; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

5 (1) **Mining contributes to the economy and well-being of the people of Oregon. Mining**
6 **creates high-paying jobs in parts of this state that, due to a lack of infrastructure and de-**
7 **velopment, are less likely to be capable of diversifying beyond a regional economy based on**
8 **natural resources. Mining creates secondary industries in the surrounding region and at-**
9 **tracts numerous providers of goods and services. Mining also generates significant tax re-**
10 **venues for local governments and provides support for civic and educational projects in local**
11 **communities.**

12 (2) **The mining of minerals is a natural resource use.**

13 (3) **In eastern Oregon, including Lake, Harney, Malheur, Baker and Grant Counties, di-**
14 **versifying the types of natural resource uses that contribute to local economies enables**
15 **those economies to better withstand temporary economic declines that affect specific natural**
16 **resource uses. In the same way that a diversified economy is good for a large metropolitan**
17 **area, a diversified natural resource economy is good for eastern Oregon.**

18 (4) **Technological advances in the mining industry, coupled with reclamation efforts, have**
19 **greatly reduced the environmental impacts of mining operations. The size and scope of**
20 **modern operations is such that the operations do not cause interference with other natural**
21 **resource uses, particularly in an area as vast as eastern Oregon.**

22 (5) **Mining operations should be encouraged and supported in eastern Oregon as a means**
23 **for residents and communities to improve their economies and well-being.**

24 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shall conduct**
25 **a study of the mineral resource potential of eastern and southern Oregon counties and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 present the results of the study in a report to interim committees of the Legislative As-
2 sembly related to the environment and natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS
3 192.245, on or before September 15, 2016.

4 (2) The study shall include:

5 (a) A list of all relevant mineral inventories and studies previously completed by the de-
6 partment;

7 (b) A description of the estimated costs to the department for making the results of
8 mineral inventories available online;

9 (c) A review of the mineral resource potential of eastern and southern Oregon counties
10 based on published data and research previously completed and available to the department,
11 including an assessment of which metallic and industrial mineral commodities are most
12 likely to be economically developable; and

13 (d) Recommendations, including estimated related costs, for the department to engage
14 in continued mineral resource potential assessment activities in eastern and southern
15 Oregon through the use of the department's existing personnel.

16 (3) The department shall post the study conducted pursuant to subsections (1) and (2)
17 of this section on the department's website.

18 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed on January 2, 2017.

19 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
20 ated to the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, for the biennium beginning
21 July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of carrying out
22 the provisions of section 2 of this 2015 Act.

23 **SECTION 5.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
24 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
25 on its passage.