

FULL COMMITTEE PONY

SB 644

Relating to mineral resources

SB 644 defines the term “significant mineral resources site” and stipulates that, for the purpose of obtaining county approval of an application for a land use permit, mining activities on such a site that is located on land zoned for exclusive farm use in Baker, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Union or Wallowa counties is not subject to conformity with any statewide land use planning goal or administrative rule, with exceptions.

The measure requires that a project coordinating committee must be activated by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries upon receipt of an application for an operating permit to mine on a significant mineral resource site for the purpose of addressing conflicts identified by private landowners within operation’s impact area.

The measure further stipulates conditions and requirements for the permitting of mining activities on these sites by DOGAMI including:

- Amending permits to conform with subsequently issued federal, state, or local permits.
- Notice of permit application, and comment solicitation from cooperating federal and state agencies.
- Inclusion of provisions to address conflicts between mining operations, agricultural activities, and concerns addressed by the coordinating committee.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 644 be amended by the –A8 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.