

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5010

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Taylor

HB 5010 is the budget bill for the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends a budget of \$6.0 million General Fund, \$6.9 million Other Funds, and \$5.9 million Federal Funds, for a total biennial budget of \$18.8 million, including 35 positions and 34.67 FTE. This reflects a two-year budget for the agency.

The 2021-23 budget includes the elimination of five vacant positions in the Geologic Survey program and redistributes the General Fund associated with those vacancies to adjust the budgeted fund-split for existing filled positions within the program. This will provide the existing positions with more General Fund support and reduce the over-reliance on grants and projects that has contributed to past funding issues in the agency.

The budget also includes continuation of a limited duration Chemical Process Mining Coordinator for the ongoing Grassy Mountain mining project that is funded through reimbursement from the mining company. The budget includes packages in both the Geologic Survey program and the Mined Land program to more accurately reflect the agencies Current Service Level budget. Finally, there is a budget note directing DOGAMI and the Department of Environmental Quality to explore options to potentially utilize DEQ's Environmental Data Management System to provide online permitting for the Mind Land program.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5010 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.