

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26746

The Surface Mining Act was enacted in 1971 with the primary purpose to protect the taxpayers and the lands of Idaho by providing for reclamation activities and reclamation bonds for lands disturbed by surface mining activities in the state. The purpose of these proposed changes is to more accurately reflect current industry and regulatory practices. The changes include addressing the surface impacts of underground mines and providing for actual cost estimation of reclamation and related environmental activities. The legislation also includes updating financial assurance methods, requiring financial assurance for reclamation and long-term post closure management activities, requiring reclamation plan and financial assurance reviews, and ensuring that there will be no duplication in financial assurances between government agencies. Also included in the legislation is the ability for the department to require reasonable fees to pay for any additional workload associated with the proposed changes.

FISCAL NOTE

With the inclusion of fee language, the proposed amendments will have no impact to the state General Fund.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).