

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7663
BILL NUMBER: SB 672

DATE PREPARED: Jan 7, 1999
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Surface mining and land reclamation.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill makes certain changes concerning surface coal mine reclamation. High capability land is defined, and prime farmland is redefined. An application for a surface coal mining and reclamation permit must include a soil survey of high capability land. The statewide acreage of prime farmland and high capability land that is exempt from reclamation is limited to 13,000 acres. This bill provides a method to administer this limitation. A permittee must perform certain procedures for the mining and reclamation of high capability land.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The above proposal will require the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Reclamation to develop new rules and procedures to implement the above. The Department should be able to accomplish the above given its current budget.

This bill limits the amount of land that is eligible for exemption from reclamation. This provision will require mining operators to reclaim land that might otherwise be exempt. The proposal also requires that in certain circumstances the land might also have to be restored to a standard that would allow for row crop agricultural activity.

Operators would be required to post a bond prior to any mining activity on land that might have previously been exempt. The bond is used to reclaim the land in case of forfeiture. Bonds for reclamation are deposited in the Reclamation Fund.

This specific impact of this proposal is indeterminable, but the Division of Reclamation will not have to restore land that is reclaimed by operators.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: