

1680-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Sump, McMorris, L. Thomas, Chandler, Buck, Sheldon and Mielke)

Brief Title: Regulating mining and milling operations.

**HB 1680-S - DIGEST**

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/12/97)

Recognizes that the extraction of minerals by surface mining is an essential activity making an important contribution to the economic well-being of the state and nation, and that it is not possible to extract minerals without producing some environmental impacts.

Declares that comprehensive regulation of mining and thorough reclamation of mined lands is necessary to prevent or mitigate conditions that would be detrimental to the environment and to protect the general welfare, health, safety, and property rights of the citizens of the state.

Finds that a balance between appropriate environmental regulation and the production and conservation of minerals is in the best interests of the citizens of the state.