

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5860

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines, February 26, 2001
Ways & Means, March 8, 2001

Title: An act relating to surface mining reclamation permit fees.

Brief Description: Increasing the fee for a surface mining reclamation permit.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen and Oke; by request of Department of Natural Resources.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines: 2/22/01, 2/26/01 [DP-WM, DNP].

Ways & Means: 3/7/01, 3/8/01 [DP, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS & SHORELINES

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Jacobsen, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Constantine, McDonald and Oke.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove and Morton.

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Brown, Chair; Constantine, Vice Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Fraser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Regala, B. Sheldon, Snyder and Spanel.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hewitt, Honeyford, Rossi, Sheahan and Zarelli.

Staff: Richard Ramsey (786-7412)

Background: The surface mining reclamation program conducted by the Department of Natural Resources is funded by application fees paid to the department by persons that have applied or have been granted a surface mining permit. The present amount of the application is \$650. It is unclear in current law whether the application fee is refundable.

Summary of Bill: Each public or private reclamation permit applicant must pay a nonrefundable fee of \$1,200 after January 1, 2001. After June 30, 2001, each public or private permit holder must pay an annual permit fee of \$1,200.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For (Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines): The surface mining program is funded by application and permit fees; to carry out an adequate program, the fees need to be increased.

Testimony Against (Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines): None.

Testified (Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines): PRO: Ron Teissere, DNR; Willy O'Neil, AGC; Bruce Chattin, WA Aggregates and Concrete Assn.

Testimony For (Ways & Means): Without this fee increase the surface mining program will be reduced and the length of time to obtain a permit will increase from several months to more than a year. The surface mining industry is willing to accept a fee increase in order to have a more responsive regulatory agency.

Testimony Against (Ways & Means): None.

Testified (Ways & Means): PRO: Ron Teissere, DNR; Steve Buckner, WA Aggregate and Concrete Assn.