
By: Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - Environment)

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Land Reclamation Committee**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying the representation on the Land Reclamation Committee
4 and altering the number of necessary members present for a quorum; and generally
5 relating to the Land Reclamation Committee.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Environment
8 Section 15-204
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Environment**

14 15-204.

15 (a) (1) There is a Land Reclamation Committee. It consists of the following 13
16 members:

17 (i) Two members of the Department, including a chairman of the
18 Committee appointed by the Secretary;

19 (ii) A representative of the soil conservation district of Allegany
20 County;

21 (iii) A representative of the soil conservation district of Garrett
22 County;

23 (iv) Two members appointed by the Governor with the advice and
24 consent of the Senate for 3-year terms to represent the mining industry;

25 (v) One member who is a representative of [the] Allegany County
26 [Planning and Zoning Commission] to be appointed by the Governor, on the
27 recommendation of the Allegany County Commissioners, with the advice and consent of
28 the Senate to represent the local government for a 3-year term;

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1 (vi) One member who is a representative of [the] Garrett County
2 [Planning Commission] to be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the
3 Garrett County Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the House of Delegates to
4 represent local government for a 3-year term;

5 (vii) Two members from the community who do not have any interests
6 in any mining operation, one to be a resident of Garrett County and one to be a resident
7 of Allegany County, appointed by the Secretary for 3-year terms; and

8 (viii) Three members of the Department of Natural Resources
9 appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

10 (2) Committee members representing the community or local government
11 shall receive the per diem set by the Secretary for each day they meet with the Committee
12 or are called on by the chairman to transact other business of the Committee. Funds for
13 the per diem allowances shall be provided for in the budget of the Department.

14 (3) The Committee shall meet at the chairman's request and at least twice a
15 year. A quorum consists of at least [9] 7 members. No action may be approved by the
16 Committee unless a quorum is present and a majority of those present approves the
17 action.

18 (b) The Committee may:

19 (1) Study and recommend surface coal mine reclamation policies, practices,
20 and standards;

21 (2) From time to time, review the surface coal mining laws, regulations, and
22 policies for the purpose of recommending changes to improve the efficiency and
23 effectiveness of the program;

24 (3) Review proposed changes to the surface coal mining laws and
25 regulations to provide comments to the General Assembly and the Department;

26 (4) Review the Department's administration of the surface coal mining
27 regulatory program and the abandoned coal mine reclamation program to determine
28 compliance with the purpose of the subtitles;

29 (5) Enter on any surface coal mining operation to determine mining and
30 reclamation conditions; and

31 (6) Recommend research, demonstration, and cost-sharing projects to
32 promote optimum revegetation of surface coal mined lands.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 1997.