

SENATE BILL 59

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1999 Regular Session  
9r0098

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**(Departmental - Environment)**

Requested: July 27, 1998

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mining - Land Reclamation Committee Members - Statement of**  
3 **Employment and Financial Interests**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring members of the Land Reclamation Committee to file  
5 certain statements concerning employment and financial interests; and  
6 generally relating to the Land Reclamation Committee.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Environment  
9 Section 15-204  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Environment**

15 15-204.

16 (a) (1) There is a Land Reclamation Committee. It consists of the following  
17 13 members:

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

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

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

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

1 (v) One member who is a representative of Allegany County to be  
2 appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Allegany County  
3 Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the Senate to represent the local  
4 government for a 3-year term;

5 (vi) One member who is a representative of Garrett County to be  
6 appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Garrett County  
7 Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the House of Delegates to represent  
8 local government for a 3-year term;

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

12 (viii) Three members of the Department of Natural Resources  
13 appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

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

19 (3) The Committee shall meet at the chairman's request and at least  
20 twice a year. A quorum consists of at least 9 members. No action may be approved by  
21 the Committee unless a quorum is present and a majority of those present approves  
22 the action.

23 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL FILE A UNITED STATES  
24 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR STATE EMPLOYEE STATEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT  
25 AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS.

26 [(4)] (5) Committee members shall recuse themselves from proceedings  
27 that may affect their direct or indirect financial interests.

28 (b) The Committee may:

29 (1) Study and recommend surface coal mine reclamation policies,  
30 practices, and standards;

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

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

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

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

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

5     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
6 effect July 1, 1999.