

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 550 (Senator Hafer)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Coal Mining Operations - Bureau of Mines - Recognition of Certification of Other States

This bill allows the Director of the Bureau of Mines in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to enter into an agreement with an agency responsible for the regulation of coal mining in another state to provide for the recognition of mine foreman and fire-boss certificates or other certifications issued by that state under specified conditions. An individual holding a certificate issued by an agency of another state that has entered into such an agreement may apply to the bureau for reciprocal certification.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues from any fees assessed for reciprocal certificates. The bill's changes could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill describes the application procedure and requires the examining authority (the Director of the Bureau of Mines or the director's designee) to review applications. It allows the examining authority to assess a fee for the certificate and to require that the applicant satisfy any additional requirements that the bureau establishes for reciprocal certification. The bill requires an individual to whom a reciprocal certificate is issued to notify the bureau if the individual's certificate is suspended, revoked, or disciplined. The holder of a reciprocal certificate is subject to the jurisdiction of the bureau in the same

manner as the holder of a mine foreman certificate or fire-boss certificate or any other certification recognized by the bureau.

Current Law: No such reciprocity is authorized.

State Revenues: The bill authorizes the examining authority to assess a fee for reciprocal certifications comparable to the fee for a certificate issued under other similar programs. MDE did not provide any information relating to the establishment of such a fee or the amount of any such fee. However, should MDE establish a fee for reciprocal certifications, revenues would increase accordingly. Because the current certificate fee for such certifications in the State is \$1, however, it is assumed that any increase would be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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