



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1557

PRINTERS NO. 2193

PRIME SPONSOR: Gabler

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1557, Printer's Number 2193, amends the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act to conform with federal law related to cessation of operations.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the "Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act" (Act 318 of 1968) which regulates the location and operation of coal refuse disposal areas.

The bill revises Section 6.1 related to designating areas unsuitable for coal refuse disposal by adding language stating that the system "shall allow for revegetation and the prevention of erosion." It also removes the one-year limit of operation cessation and says that any temporary cessation of coal refuse disposal areas upon an operator's request shall conform with regulations and standards adopted by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement pursuant to the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The department may promulgate regulations to provide for the connection of coal refuse or related material to the coal refuse disposal area.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill would allow the Department of Environmental Protection to approve longer durations of temporary cessation, but mine operators are still required to meet and maintain all permit and water treatment requirements.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 20, 2019

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.