

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 763

**PRINTER NO.** 973

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

June 14, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Bartolotta

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 763 amends the Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act providing for changes to the reporting requirements.

This legislation allows for the analysis of underground mining operations to be performed by the Department of Environmental Protection (department) unless utilizing outside professionals proves to be more cost effective. It also changes the requirement for the report to be produced every five years to give the department the option to produce the report every five years commencing in 2025. The legislation also revises distribution of the report to include the Governor and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Act 54 of 1994 requires a report regarding the effects of underground mining on land, structures and water resources. The report is done with assistance from professionals with appropriate expertise and is presented to the Governor, General Assembly and Citizen Advisory Council every five years. The chart below shows the cost of generating the report:

Report Years	Costs
1993-1998	Performed In-house
1998-2003	\$ 199,824
2003-2008	\$ 331,682
2008-2013	\$ 561,000
2013-2018	\$ 794,305

Senate Bill 763 allows for the department to produce the report in-house if it is more cost effective compared to utilizing a third party. Assuming the cost of the study increases at a rate similar to what has been historically observed, it can be anticipated that it would cost the department \$1.1 million to contract with an outside entity. The department may realize savings from this legislation if it is able to produce the report for less than \$1.1 million.