

# Legislative Analysis



## REPEAL STATE ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

### House Bill 6191 as introduced

**Sponsor: Rep. Sue Allor**

**Committee: Oversight**

**Complete to 6-15-22**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 6191 would amend Subpart 2 (Abandoned Mine Reclamation) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to repeal section 63510, which creates the State Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Inspection and reclamation fees currently deposited into the fund would instead be deposited in the state general fund.

Currently, the act authorizes the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to expend money from the Fund for the emergency restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of adverse effects of coal mining practices on eligible land if certain conditions are met. The bill would delete this provision and instead provide that a provision allowing EGLE to enter any land to take actions necessary to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of coal mining practices or to protect the public health, safety, or general welfare if a warrant had been obtained would apply if EGLE finds both of the following:

- Because of the effects of past coal mining practices, an emergency constituting a danger to the public health, safety, or general welfare exists.
- No other person, state agency, or local unit of government has commenced actions or operations on the eligible land to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of the coal mining practices.

#### State Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

Currently, money deposited in the fund is used for the following in that order:

- Protection of public health, safety, and general welfare from the adverse effects of coal mining practices.
- Restoration of land and water resources and the environment degraded by the adverse effects of coal mining practices. This includes the conservation and development of soil; water; woodland, fish, and wildlife; recreation resources; and agricultural productivity.
- Research and demonstration projects relating to surface mining reclamation and water quality control program methods and techniques.
- The protection, repair, replacement, construction, or enhancement of public facilities such as utilities, roads, recreation, and conservation facilities adversely affected by coal mining practices.
- Development of publicly owned land adversely affected by coal mining practices.

MCL 324.63513 and 324.63542

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 6191 is unlikely to affect costs or revenues for EGLE or local governments. The State Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund currently has a fund balance of zero, so no money would be transferred to the general fund under the bill. The bill could result in additional revenue for the general fund if qualified mining activities commence in future.

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