

HOUSE BILL 571

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 10; Title 50; Title 59; Title 60; Title 66; Title 67; Title 68; Title 69 and Title 70, relative to enabling this state to obtain primacy over the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation within its territorial jurisdiction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a special joint committee to study the following issues relative to this state obtaining primacy over the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation within its territorial jurisdiction:

- (1) The most efficient and effective means of regulating such mining and reclamation in this state;
- (2) The benefits derived from authorizing this state to administer a program regulating surface mining consistent with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, compiled in 30 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.; and
- (3) The potential effects a grant of primacy would have on mineral rights owners, operators, property owners, or other persons who may be adversely affected by orders, determinations, rules, permit terms, or rulings of the commissioner, thereby affecting surface coal mining and reclamation operations in this state.

SECTION 2. The special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

SECTION 3. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 4. All legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 5. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 110th general assembly no later than February 1, 2018, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.