

FISCAL NOTE

This bill creates the long-term abandoned mine reclamation account, which shall receive up to 30 percent of all funds provided to the state by the United States secretary of the interior under section 40701(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as amended by section 801 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Funds in the account shall be expended only upon legislative appropriation for purposes specified in the bill.

The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has received about \$9.7 million of applicable funds and expects to receive a similar amount for the next 14 years. At a maximum of 30 percent, the new long-term abandoned mine reclamation account could expect total deposits of about \$43.6 million by 2038.

The State Treasurer shall invest the funds in the account and earnings shall be credited to the account. The Treasurer's Office projects yields in FY25 through FY27 to be 3.29%, 3.38%, and 3.39% respectively for permanent funds and 3.77%, 4.32%, and 4.32% respectively for State Agency Pool funds. Yield is defined as the interest and dividend income from the investment. Over the long term, total returns for permanent funds are expected to be 6.5%, while total returns for State Agency Pool funds are expected to be 3.25%. This is in accordance with the State's Investment Policy. Total return is defined as growth in the value of the investment, including both yield and realized & unrealized gains.

Investment income to the new long-term abandoned mine reclamation account cannot be determined and would depend on the timing and amount of deposits to and appropriations from the account.

This bill also repeals the abandoned mine land funds balancing account established by W.S. 35-11-1210(e) and moves any unexpended, unobligated funds from that account to the abandoned mine land funds reserve account. The unexpended, unobligated balance of this account in the state accounting system on November 17, 2023 was \$0.

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