

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL C

LLS NO. 25-0157.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson and Bridges, Pelton B.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez and McCormick, Winter T.

Senate Committees

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES, AND, IN
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A NEW PERMIT TYPE TO
103 FACILITATE THE CLEANUP OF ABANDONED MINE WASTE PILES,
104 UPDATING FORFEITURE AND WARRANTY PROCEDURES, AND
105 RATIFYING COLORADO'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE "INTERSTATE
106 MINING COMPACT" AND THE INTERSTATE MINING
107 COMMISSION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. The bill amends the "Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act" and the "Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials" to:

- Contemplate the expedited issuance of reclamation-only permits to persons desiring to conduct reclamation-only operations after July 1, 2025, on less than 5 acres; and
- Update restrictions and requirements concerning the posting and forfeiture of financial warranties relating to mine reclamation projects.

The office of mined land reclamation may not issue a reclamation-only permit to a designated mining operation.

The bill also enacts the "Interstate Mining Compact" and ratifies Colorado's membership in the associated Interstate Mining Commission.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** This short title of this act is the "Legacy
3 Mining and Modernization Act".

4 **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 finds and declares that:

6 (a) The division of reclamation, mining, and safety within the
7 department of natural resources estimates there are more than
8 twenty-three thousand abandoned mines across the state;

9 (b) It is estimated that one thousand eight hundred miles of
10 Colorado streams are impaired due to acid-mine-drainage-related
11 pollutants, and that approximately five thousand legacy sites could be
12 reclaimed to reduce the impacts to surface waters and watersheds through
13 clean-up operations;

14 (c) Many legacy mine features contribute heavy metals and acid
15 mine drainage to Colorado watersheds, contaminating drinking water
16 supplies, negatively impacting the health of aquatic ecosystems, and
17 corroding essential infrastructure;

1 (d) Certain discharges from legacy mine features, such as mine
2 tunnels and adits, may represent point source discharges of pollution,
3 requiring robust permitting that limits the concentration of pollutants such
4 as copper, iron, and lead;

5 (e) Storm water runoff associated with other sources of pollution
6 at legacy mines may represent nonpoint sources of pollution, where heavy
7 metals and acid mine drainage are mobilized by rainfall and snowmelt as
8 they move over and through the ground. Nonpoint sources of pollution
9 are not subject to the same permitting requirements as point sources.

10 (f) The new permit type contemplated by this act is not intended
11 to facilitate reclamation at any site identified as having a point source of
12 discharge, nor does it eliminate a permittee's duty to comply with any
13 applicable surface water or groundwater quality requirements. Rather, the
14 new permit type is intended to facilitate reclamation activities that
15 improve water quality by removing many nonpoint sources of pollution
16 from Colorado's watersheds.

17 (g) Current law makes cleanup of these sites difficult due to
18 stringent regulations that are geared to address mining operations, not
19 reclamation only;

20 (h) In addition to improvements in watershed health and water
21 quality, removing barriers to reclaiming these legacy mine features offers
22 an opportunity to facilitate recovery of valuable metals, rare earths, and
23 strategic minerals; establish ecosystem-appropriate vegetation, including
24 pollinator-friendly and drought-tolerant plants, where no vegetation exists
25 today; and return land to a beneficial use for local communities;

26 (i) Financial warranties are required for all mining operations to
27 ensure the completion of reclamation;

1 (j) Each financial warranty must be set and maintained at a level
2 that reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the
3 reclamation plan; and

4 (k) One hundred percent of the proceeds of all forfeited financial
5 warranties must be deposited in a special account established by the
6 mined land reclamation board for the purpose of reclaiming lands that
7 were obligated to be reclaimed under the permits upon which such
8 financial warranties have been forfeited.

9 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that a new permit
10 type should be created to remove undue regulatory burdens and facilitate
11 the removal of waste piles while providing regulatory oversight and
12 ensuring lands are returned to a beneficial use.

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-103, **amend**
14 the introductory portion and (8); and **add** (2.5) and (5.9) as follows:

15 **34-32-103. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 32, unless
16 the context otherwise requires:

17 (2.5) "CERCLA" MEANS THE FEDERAL "COMPREHENSIVE
18 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF
19 1980", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 9601 ET SEQ.

20 (5.9) "LEGACY MINE" MEANS A MINE WHERE PRE-LAW MINING
21 OPERATIONS HAVE OCCURRED OR THE MINING OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN
22 ABANDONED, AND NO BOND OR OTHER FINANCIAL ASSURANCE OR
23 RECLAMATION RESPONSIBILITY COVERING THE RECLAMATION OF THE LAND
24 AFFECTED BY THE MINING OPERATIONS EXISTS.

25 (8) "Mining operation" means the development or extraction of a
26 mineral from its natural occurrences OR WITHIN REFUSE on affected land.
27 ~~The term~~ "Mining operation" includes, but is not limited to, open mining,

1 in situ mining, in situ leach mining, surface operations, and the disposal
2 of refuse from underground mining, in situ mining, and in situ leach
3 mining. ~~The term~~ "Mining operation" also includes the following
4 operations on affected lands: Transportation, concentrating, milling,
5 evaporation, REMOVAL OF WASTE PILES AND REFUSE, and other
6 processing. ~~The term~~ "Mining operation" does not include: The
7 exploration and extraction of natural petroleum in a liquid or gaseous
8 state by means of wells or pipe; the development or extraction of coal; the
9 extraction of geothermal resources; smelting, refining, cleaning,
10 preparation, transportation, and other off-site operations not conducted on
11 affected land; or the extraction of construction material where there is no
12 development or extraction of any mineral.

13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-110, **add** (9)
14 as follows:

15 **34-32-110. Limited impact operations - expedited process -**
16 **reclamation-only permits - rules.** (9) (a) AN OPERATOR DESIRING TO
17 CONDUCT RECLAMATION-ONLY OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO AN
18 APPLICATION SUBMITTED AFTER JULY 1, 2025, ON LESS THAN FIVE ACRES
19 MAY APPLY FOR THE EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF THE OPERATOR'S PERMIT.
20 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A RECLAMATION-ONLY PERMIT PURSUANT TO THIS
21 SUBSECTION (9), AN OPERATOR SHALL FILE WITH THE OFFICE:

22 (I) EVIDENCE OF THE SOURCE OF THE OPERATOR'S LEGAL RIGHT TO
23 ENTER AND INITIATE A RECLAMATION OPERATION ON THE AFFECTED LAND;

24 (II) A FINANCIAL WARRANTY AND FEE THAT COMPLIES WITH
25 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION;

26 (III) THE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE OPERATOR'S
27 GENERAL OFFICE AND THE OPERATOR'S LOCAL ADDRESS OR ADDRESSES

1 AND TELEPHONE NUMBER;

2 (IV) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE
3 OWNER OF THE SURFACE OF THE AFFECTED LAND AND THE SOURCE OF THE
4 OPERATOR'S LEGAL RIGHT TO ENTER AND INITIATE A RECLAMATION
5 OPERATION ON THE AFFECTED LAND;

6 (V) A STATEMENT THAT THE OPERATOR WILL CONDUCT THE
7 OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS LISTED ON THE
8 APPLICATION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 32 AND THE RULES
9 PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 32 AND IN EFFECT AT THE TIME
10 THE PERMIT WAS APPROVED OR AMENDED;

11 (VI) A MAP SHOWING INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO DETERMINE
12 THE LOCATION OF THE AFFECTED LAND AND EXISTING AND PROPOSED
13 ROADS OR ACCESS ROUTES TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
14 RECLAMATION OPERATION;

15 (VII) THE APPROXIMATE SIZE OF THE AFFECTED LAND;

16 (VIII) INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO DESCRIBE OR IDENTIFY THE
17 TYPE OF RECLAMATION OPERATION PROPOSED, HOW THE OPERATOR
18 INTENDS TO CONDUCT THE RECLAMATION OPERATION, AND THE NAME AND
19 LOCATION OF THE MILL OR FACILITY ACCEPTING THE MATERIALS BEING
20 EXCAVATED;

21 (IX) A STATEMENT THAT THE OPERATOR HAS APPLIED FOR
22 NECESSARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROVALS; AND

23 (X) A DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO RECLAIM ANY
24 AFFECTED LAND CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION
25 34-32-116.

26 (b) THE OFFICE SHALL NOT ISSUE A RECLAMATION-ONLY PERMIT
27 TO A DESIGNATED MINING OPERATION.

1 (c) THE OFFICE SHALL NOT ISSUE A RECLAMATION-ONLY PERMIT
2 FOR A PERIOD THAT EXCEEDS THREE YEARS FROM THE INITIATION OF
3 EXCAVATION TO COMPLETION OF ALL RECLAMATION WORK.

4 (d) A RECLAMATION-ONLY PERMIT SHALL NOT BE CONVERTED INTO
5 ANY OTHER TYPE OF PERMIT.

6 (e) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) RELIEVES A PERMITTEE OF
7 THE DUTY TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE SURFACE WATER OR
8 GROUNDWATER QUALITY OR RADIATION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.

9 (f) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) APPLIES TO RESPONSE
10 ACTIONS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO CERCLA.

11 (g) THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES THAT DEFINE WHAT
12 TYPES OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES ARE PERMISSIBLE AND PROHIBITED
13 UNDER THIS SECTION.

14 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-112, **amend**
15 (1) introductory portion; and **repeal** (1)(a) as follows:

16 **34-32-112. Application for reclamation permit - changes in**
17 **permits - fees - notice.** (1) ~~Any~~ AN operator desiring to obtain a
18 reclamation permit shall make written application to the board or to the
19 office for a permit on forms provided by the board. The reclamation
20 permit or the renewal of an existing permit, if approved, ~~shall~~ MUST
21 authorize the operator to engage in such mining operation upon the
22 affected land described in ~~such~~ THE application for the life of the mine.
23 ~~Such~~ THE application shall ~~consist~~ BE FILED THROUGH BOARD-APPROVED
24 METHODS AND CONSISTS of the following:

25 (a) ~~Five copies of the application;~~

26 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-115, **amend**
27 (2) as follows:

1 **34-32-115. Action by board - appeals.** (2) ~~Prior to the~~ BEFORE
2 holding ~~of any such~~ A hearing AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
3 SECTION, the board or the office shall provide notice to ~~any~~ A person WHO
4 previously ~~filing~~ FILED a protest or petition for a hearing or statement in
5 support of an application pursuant to section 34-32-114 and shall publish
6 notice of the time, date, and location of the hearing ON THE DIVISION
7 WEBSITE AND in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the
8 proposed mining operation once a week for two consecutive weeks
9 immediately prior to the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted ~~as a~~
10 ~~proceeding~~ pursuant to article 4 of title 24. ~~C.R.S.~~ A final decision on the
11 application shall be made within one hundred twenty days after the
12 receipt of the application. In the event of complex applications, serious
13 unforeseen circumstances, or significant snow cover on the affected land
14 that prevents a necessary on-site inspection, the board or the office may
15 reasonably extend the maximum time FOR A FINAL DECISION BY sixty
16 days. In the event of in situ leach mining operations, a final decision on
17 the application ~~will~~ SHALL be made within two hundred forty days.

18 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-116, **amend**
19 (7)(e) as follows:

20 **34-32-116. Duties of operators - reclamation plans.**
21 (7) Reclamation plans and the implementation of reclamation plans must
22 conform to the following general requirements:

23 (e) In those areas where revegetation is part of the reclamation
24 plan, land shall be revegetated in such a way as to establish a diverse,
25 effective, and long-lasting vegetative cover that is capable of
26 self-regeneration and at least equal in extent of cover to the natural
27 vegetation of the surrounding area. Native PLANT species THAT

1 ENCOURAGE POLLINATORS should receive first consideration, but
2 introduced species may be used in the revegetation process when found
3 desirable by the board.

4 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-117, **amend**
5 (3)(b), (3)(d)(II), (3)(f)(IV), (3)(f)(V)(A), (4)(c)(II), (6)(a), (6)(b)(I),
6 (6)(c), (6)(e), (6)(f), and (6)(g); and **repeal** (3)(f)(V)(C), (3)(f)(V)(D),
7 (3)(f)(V)(E), and (8) as follows:

8 **34-32-117. Warranties of performance - warranties of**
9 **financial responsibility - release of warranties - applicability.**

10 (3) (b) The board may accept interests in real and personal property as
11 financial warranties ~~to~~ WHERE THE AMOUNT OF THE RECLAMATION
12 LIABILITY EXCEEDS FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS. THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE
13 the extent of a specified percentage of the ~~estimated~~ APPRAISED value of
14 ~~any such~~ THE property, ~~Any~~ NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
15 THE APPRAISED VALUE. A person offering such financial warranty shall
16 submit THE information necessary to show clear title to and the value of
17 ~~such~~ THE property.

18 (d) For nondesignated mining operations:

19 (II) This subsection (3) ~~shall be~~ IS applicable on January 1, 1996,
20 to:

21 (A) Deeds of trust existing as of July 1, 1993, and subsequent
22 updates of ~~these same~~ THE deeds of trust used as collateral for financial
23 warranties. ~~and~~

24 (B) ~~Any financial warranty completed before July 1, 1993, if the~~
25 ~~value of any such financial warranty includes any mineral value or if~~
26 ~~mineral value is used to update any such financial warranty. The value of~~
27 ~~any financial warranty described in this sub-subparagraph (B) shall~~

1 ~~include mineral value for the life of the warranty.~~

2 (f) Proof of financial responsibility may consist of any one or
3 more of the following, subject to approval by the board:

4 (IV) A deed of trust or security agreement encumbering real or
5 personal property and creating a first lien in favor of the state FOR
6 LIABILITIES EXCEEDING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS;

7 (V) Assurance, in such form as the board may require, that:

8 (A) Upon commencement of production OR WHEN SITE
9 CONDITIONS AND LIABILITIES CHANGE, the operator will establish an
10 individual reclamation fund, to be held by an independent trustee for the
11 board, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, which
12 trust fund shall be funded by periodic cash payments representing such
13 fraction of receipts as will, in the opinion of the board, provide assurance
14 that ~~funds~~ MONEY will be available for reclamation; AND

15 (C) ~~Project-related fixtures and equipment (excluding rolling~~
16 ~~stock) owned or to be owned by the financial warrantor within the permit~~
17 ~~area will have a salvage value at least equal to the amount of the financial~~
18 ~~warranty, or the appropriate portion thereof;~~

19 (D) ~~Existing liens and encumbrances applicable to said fixtures~~
20 ~~and equipment, other than liens in favor of the United States or this state,~~
21 ~~any other state, and any political subdivisions, will be subordinated to the~~
22 ~~lien described in section 34-32-118 (4)(b); and~~

23 (E) ~~Said fixtures and equipment will be maintained in good~~
24 ~~operating condition and will not be removed from the permit area without~~
25 ~~the prior consent of the board;~~

26 (4) (c) (II) ~~A~~ AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor shall have
27 HAS sixty days after the date of notice of ~~any such~~ AN adjustment to fulfill

1 all THE new requirements.

2 (6) (a) Financial warranties shall be maintained in good standing
3 for the entire life of any permit issued under this ~~article~~. ~~Financial~~
4 ~~warrantors~~ ARTICLE 32. AN OPERATOR OR A FINANCIAL WARRANTOR shall
5 immediately notify the board of ~~any~~ AN event ~~which~~ THAT may impair
6 ~~their~~ THE OPERATOR'S OR THE FINANCIAL WARRANTOR'S warranties.

7 (b) (I) Each OPERATOR AND financial warrantor providing proof
8 of financial responsibility in a form described in subsection ~~(3)(f)(IV);~~
9 ~~(3)(f)(V), or (8)~~ (3)(f)(IV) OR (3)(f)(V) of this section shall annually
10 cause to be filed with the board a certification by an independent auditor
11 that, as of the close of the ~~financial warrantor's~~ OPERATOR'S most recent
12 fiscal year, the OPERATOR AND THE financial warrantor continued to meet
13 all applicable requirements of the applicable subsection. ~~Financial~~
14 ~~warrantors~~ AN OPERATOR OR A FINANCIAL WARRANTOR that no longer
15 ~~meet~~ MEETS the requirements shall instead cause to be filed an alternate
16 form of financial warranty.

17 (c) Each OPERATOR AND financial warrantor providing proof of
18 financial responsibility in a form described in subsection ~~(3)(f)(IV);~~
19 ~~(3)(f)(V), or (8)~~ (3)(f)(IV) OR (3)(f)(V) of this section shall notify the
20 board within sixty days of ~~any~~ A net loss incurred in ~~any~~ A quarterly
21 period.

22 (e) Whenever the board elects to convene a hearing pursuant to
23 this subsection (6), it may hire an independent consultant to provide
24 expert advice at the hearing. The fees of ~~any such~~ THE consultant shall be
25 paid by the ~~financial warrantor~~ OPERATOR, and ~~no~~ A consultant shall NOT
26 be hired until the ~~financial warrantor~~ OPERATOR signs a written fee
27 agreement in such form as the board may prescribe. In the event that a

1 ~~financial warrantor~~ AN OPERATOR refuses to sign such an agreement, the
2 board may, without hearing, order the ~~financial warrantor~~ OPERATOR to
3 provide an alternate form of financial warranty.

4 (f) ~~At any~~ A hearing held pursuant to this subsection (6), if the
5 board finds that a financial warranty has been materially impaired, ~~it~~ THE
6 BOARD may order the OPERATOR OR THE financial warrantor to provide an
7 alternate form of financial warranty.

8 (g) ~~A~~ AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor ~~shall have~~ HAS
9 ninety days to provide ~~any~~ AN alternate warranty required under this
10 subsection (6).

11 (8) (a) ~~The board or office may, in its discretion, accept a first~~
12 ~~priority lien in the amount of the financial warranty prescribed pursuant~~
13 ~~to subsection (4) of this section on any project-related fixtures and~~
14 ~~equipment that must remain on-site in order for the reclamation plan to~~
15 ~~be performed in lieu of including the cost of acquiring and installing such~~
16 ~~fixtures and equipment.~~

17 (b) ~~The board or office may accept a first priority lien on any~~
18 ~~project-related fixtures and equipment that must be demolished or~~
19 ~~removed from the site under the reclamation plan. The board or office~~
20 ~~may, in its discretion, accept such a lien as a portion of the proof of~~
21 ~~financial responsibility if the amount credited for such lien does not~~
22 ~~exceed the cost of demolishing and removing the subject fixtures and~~
23 ~~equipment or the market value of such fixtures and equipment, whichever~~
24 ~~is less.~~

25 (c) ~~Any fixtures and equipment accepted pursuant to this~~
26 ~~subsection (8) shall be insured and maintained in good operating~~
27 ~~condition and shall not be removed from the permit area without the prior~~

1 consent of the board. Each financial warrantor providing a lien on such
2 equipment and fixtures shall file an annual report with the office in
3 sufficient detail to fully describe the condition, value, and location of all
4 pledged fixtures and equipment. Such financial warrantor shall not pledge
5 such equipment and fixtures to secure any other obligation and shall
6 immediately notify the office of any other interest that arises in the
7 pledged property.

8 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-118, **amend**
9 (5); and **repeal** (4)(b) as follows:

10 **34-32-118. Forfeiture of financial warranties.** (4) (b) The
11 amount of any forfeited financial warranty shall be a lien in favor of this
12 state upon any project-related fixtures or equipment offered as proof of
13 financial responsibility pursuant to section 34-32-117 (3)(f)(V).

14 (5) ~~Funds~~ MONEY recovered by the attorney general in
15 proceedings brought pursuant to subsection (4) of this section shall be
16 held in the account described in section 34-32-122 and shall be used to
17 reclaim lands covered by the forfeited warranties. ~~except that five percent~~
18 ~~of the amount of the financial warranty shall be deposited in the mined~~
19 ~~land reclamation fund, created in section 34-32-127, to cover the~~
20 ~~administrative costs incurred by the office in performing reclamation.~~ The
21 board ~~shall have~~ HAS a right of entry to reclaim ~~said~~ THE lands. Upon
22 completion of ~~such~~ THE reclamation, the board shall present to the
23 financial warrantor a full accounting and ~~shall~~ refund all unspent ~~moneys~~
24 MONEY.

25 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-122, **amend**
26 (1)(a) and (2) as follows:

27 **34-32-122. Fees, civil penalties, and forfeitures - deposit -**

1 **emergency response cash fund - created - definition.** (1) (a) All fees
2 and assessments collected pursuant to this ~~article and five percent of the~~
3 ~~proceeds of any financial warranty forfeited pursuant to section~~
4 ~~34-32-118~~ ARTICLE 32 shall be deposited in the mined land reclamation
5 fund ~~for administrative costs associated with reclaiming sites for which~~
6 ~~the financial warranty has been revoked~~ CREATED IN SECTION 34-32-127.
7 All civil penalties collected under ~~the provisions of this article~~ THIS
8 ARTICLE 32 shall be deposited in the general fund. ~~Ninety-five~~ ONE
9 HUNDRED percent of the proceeds of all financial warranties forfeited
10 under ~~the provisions of section 34-32-118~~ shall be deposited in a special
11 account in the general fund established by the board for the purposes of
12 reclaiming lands ~~which~~ THAT were obligated to be reclaimed under the
13 permits upon which ~~such~~ THE financial warranties have been forfeited.

14 (2) ~~Any~~ AN applicant that desires to utilize the self-insurance
15 provisions listed in section 34-32-117 ~~(3)(f)(IV), (3)(f)(V), or (8)~~
16 (3)(f)(IV) OR (3)(f)(V) shall pay an annual fee to the office sufficient to
17 defray the actual cost to the office of establishing and reviewing the
18 financial warranty of the applicant. ~~These funds are hereby~~ MONEY
19 COLLECTED AS SUCH FEES IS annually made available to the office, which
20 shall utilize outside financial and legal services for this purpose.

21 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-124.5,
22 **amend** (1)(b) as follows:

23 **34-32-124.5. Emergencies endangering public health or**
24 **welfare or environment.** (1) Following an investigation, an emergency
25 response is justified pursuant to section 34-32-122 (3) if the board or
26 office determines that:

27 (b) Circumstances exist, regardless of whether caused by a person,

1 at a legacy mine site that create a danger to public health or welfare or the
2 environment. For purposes of this paragraph (b), "legacy mine site"
3 means a site where hard rock mining operations have been abandoned as
4 those terms are defined in section 34-34-101 (1)(b) and (4).

5 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32-127, **amend**
6 (2)(a)(I)(A) as follows:

7 **34-32-127. Mined land reclamation fund - created - fees - fee**
8 **adjustments - rules.** (2) (a) The office shall collect fees for fiscal year
9 2014-15 and for each subsequent year of operation for operations
10 according to the following schedule:

- 11 (I) Applications pursuant to:
 - 12 (A) Section 34-32-110 ~~(1)~~ (1) AND (9) \$288

13 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32.5-112,
14 **amend** (1)(b) introductory portion; and **repeal** (1)(b)(I) as follows:

15 **34-32.5-112. Application for reclamation permit - changes in**
16 **permits - fees - notice.** (1) (b) Each AN application shall consist SHALL
17 BE FILED THROUGH BOARD-APPROVED METHODS AND CONSISTS OF:

- 18 (I) ~~Five copies of the application;~~

19 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32.5-115,
20 **amend** (2) as follows:

21 **34-32.5-115. Action by board - appeals.** (2) ~~Prior to~~ BEFORE
22 holding a hearing AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, the
23 board or the office shall provide notice to ~~any~~ A person who filed a
24 protest or petition for a hearing or statement in support of an application
25 pursuant to section 34-32.5-114. Notice of the time, date, and location of
26 the hearing shall be published ON THE DIVISION WEBSITE AND in a
27 newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed mining

1 operation once a week for the two consecutive weeks immediately
2 preceding the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to article
3 4 of title 24. ~~C.R.S.~~ A final decision on the application shall be made
4 within one hundred twenty days after the receipt of the application. In the
5 event of complex applications, serious unforeseen circumstances, or
6 significant snow cover on the affected land that prevents a necessary
7 on-site inspection, the board may reasonably extend the time in which a
8 final decision must be made by sixty days.

9 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32.5-116,
10 **amend** (4) introductory portion and (4)(f) as follows:

11 **34-32.5-116. Duties of operators - reclamation plans.**

12 (4) Reclamation plans and their implementation are required on all
13 affected lands and ~~shall~~ MUST conform to the following requirements:

14 (f) In those areas where revegetation is part of the reclamation
15 plan, land shall be revegetated so that a diverse, effective, and
16 long-lasting vegetative cover is established that is capable of
17 self-regeneration and is at least equal, with respect to the extent of cover,
18 to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area. ~~Species chosen for~~
19 NATIVE PLANT SPECIES THAT ENCOURAGE POLLINATORS SHOULD RECEIVE
20 FIRST CONSIDERATION, BUT INTRODUCED SPECIES MAY BE USED IN THE
21 REVEGETATION PROCESS WHEN FOUND DESIRABLE BY THE BOARD.
22 Revegetation ~~shall~~ MUST be compatible for the proposed post-extraction
23 land use and ~~shall~~ be of adequate diversity to establish successful
24 reclamation.

25 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32.5-117,
26 **amend** (3)(b), (3)(d)(II), (3)(f)(IV), (3)(f)(V)(A), (4)(c)(II), (6)(a), (6)(b),
27 (6)(c), (6)(e), (6)(f), and (6)(g); and **repeal** (3)(f)(V)(C), (3)(f)(V)(D),

1 (3)(f)(V)(E), (3)(f)(VI), (3)(f)(VII), and (8) as follows:

2 **34-32.5-117. Warranties of performance - warranties of**
3 **financial responsibility - release of warranties.** (3) (b) The board may
4 accept interests in real and personal property as financial warranties to
5 WHERE THE AMOUNT OF THE RECLAMATION LIABILITY EXCEEDS FIFTY
6 MILLION DOLLARS. THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE the extent of a specified
7 percentage of the ~~estimated~~ APPRAISED value of ~~such~~ THE property, NOT
8 TO EXCEED SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. A person
9 offering such a financial warranty shall submit information to show clear
10 title to and the value of ~~such~~ THE property.

11 (d) For construction materials operations:

12 (II) This subsection (3) ~~shall be~~ IS effective on January 1, 1996,
13 with respect to a:

14 (A) Financial warranty that is collateral for a deed of trust used as
15 collateral for a financial warranty in existence on July 1, 1993, and
16 subsequent amendments of ~~such~~ THE deed of trust. ~~and~~

17 (B) ~~Financial warranty completed before July 1, 1993, if the value~~
18 ~~of such financial warranty includes a construction material value or if~~
19 ~~construction material value is used to update such warranty. The value of~~
20 ~~a financial warranty described in this sub-subparagraph (B) shall include~~
21 ~~the construction material value for the life of the warranty.~~

22 (f) Proof of financial responsibility may consist of one or more of
23 the following, subject to approval by the board:

24 (IV) A deed of trust or security agreement encumbering real or
25 personal property and creating a first lien in favor of this state FOR
26 LIABILITIES EXCEEDING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS;

27 (V) Assurance, in such form as the board may require, that:

1 (A) Upon commencement of production, OR WHEN SITE
2 CONDITIONS AND LIABILITIES CHANGE, the operator will establish an
3 individual reclamation fund to be held by an independent trustee for the
4 board, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, and
5 funded by periodic cash payments representing such fraction of receipts
6 as will, in the opinion of the board, provide assurance that funds MONEY
7 will be available for reclamation; AND

8 (C) ~~Project-related fixtures and equipment, excluding rolling~~
9 ~~stock, owned or to be owned by the financial warrantor within the permit~~
10 ~~area will have a salvage value at least equal to the amount of the financial~~
11 ~~warranty or the appropriate portion of such warranty;~~

12 (D) ~~Existing liens and encumbrances applicable to project-related~~
13 ~~fixtures and equipment shall be subordinated to the lien described in~~
14 ~~section 34-32.5-118; except that liens in favor of the United States, a~~
15 ~~state, or a political subdivision shall not be so subordinated;~~

16 (E) ~~Project-related fixtures and equipment shall be maintained in~~
17 ~~good operating condition and will not be removed from the permit area~~
18 ~~without the prior consent of the board;~~

19 (VI) ~~A certified financial statement for the financial warrantor's~~
20 ~~most recent fiscal year and a certification by an independent auditor that:~~

21 (A) ~~The financial warrantor is the issuer of one or more currently~~
22 ~~outstanding senior credit obligations that have been rated by a nationally~~
23 ~~recognized rating organization;~~

24 (B) ~~The obligations enjoy a rating by such rating organization of~~
25 ~~'A' or better;~~

26 (C) ~~The financial warrantor's net worth was at least twice the~~
27 ~~amount of all financial warranties made by such warrantor as of the close~~

1 of the most recent fiscal year;

2 (VII) ~~A certified financial statement for the financial warrantor's~~
3 ~~most recent fiscal year and a certification by an independent auditor that~~
4 ~~as of the close of such year the financial warrantor's:~~

5 (A) ~~Net worth was at least ten million dollars and was equal to or~~
6 ~~greater than twice the amount of all financial warranties;~~

7 (B) ~~Tangible fixed assets in the United States were worth at least~~
8 ~~twenty million dollars;~~

9 (C) ~~Total liabilities-to-net-worth ratio was not more than two to~~
10 ~~one;~~

11 (D) ~~Net income, excluding nonrecurring items, was positive.~~
12 ~~Nonrecurring items that affect net income shall be stated in order to~~
13 ~~determine if they materially affect self-bonding capacity.~~

14 (4) (c) (II) ~~A AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor shall have~~
15 ~~HAS sixty days after the date of notice of an adjustment to fulfill the new~~
16 ~~requirements.~~

17 (6) (a) A financial warranty shall be maintained in good standing
18 for the entire life of a permit issued under this ~~article. A ARTICLE 32.5. AN~~
19 ~~OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor shall immediately notify the board of~~
20 ~~an event that may impair its THE OPERATOR'S OR THE FINANCIAL~~
21 ~~WARRANTOR'S warranty.~~

22 (b) Each OPERATOR AND financial warrantor ~~who~~ THAT provides
23 proof of financial responsibility in a form described in subsection
24 ~~(3)(f)(IV) to (3)(f)(VII) or subsection (8) (3)(f)(IV) OR (3)(f)(V) of this~~
25 ~~section shall cause to be filed with the board a certification by an~~
26 ~~independent auditor. Such THE certification shall be filed annually and~~
27 ~~shall MUST provide that, as of the close of the financial warrantor's~~

1 OPERATOR'S most recent fiscal year, ~~such~~ THE OPERATOR AND THE
2 financial warrantor continued to meet all applicable requirements of ~~such~~
3 ~~subparagraphs (IV) to (VII). A~~ SUBSECTIONS (3)(f)(IV) AND (3)(f)(V) OF
4 THIS SECTION. AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor ~~who~~ THAT no
5 longer meets ~~such~~ THE requirements shall cause to be filed an alternate
6 form of financial warranty.

7 (c) ~~A~~ AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor ~~who~~ THAT provides
8 proof of financial responsibility in a form described in ~~paragraph (b) of~~
9 ~~this subsection (6)~~ SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION shall notify the
10 board within sixty days after a net loss is incurred in a quarterly period.

11 (e) Whenever the board convenes a hearing pursuant to this
12 subsection (6), it may hire an independent consultant to provide expert
13 advice at the hearing. The fees of ~~any such~~ THE consultant shall be paid
14 by the ~~financial warrantor~~ OPERATOR, and ~~no~~ A consultant shall NOT be
15 hired until the ~~financial warrantor~~ OPERATOR signs a written fee
16 agreement in such form as the board may prescribe. If ~~a financial~~
17 ~~warrantor~~ AN OPERATOR refuses to sign such an agreement, the board
18 may, without hearing, order ~~such financial warrantor~~ THE OPERATOR to
19 provide an alternate form of financial warranty.

20 (f) If the board finds, at ~~any~~ A hearing held pursuant to this
21 subsection (6), that a financial warranty has been materially impaired, it
22 may order the OPERATOR OR THE financial warrantor to provide an
23 alternate form of financial warranty.

24 (g) ~~A~~ AN OPERATOR OR A financial warrantor ~~shall have~~ HAS
25 ninety days to provide ~~any~~ AN alternate warranty required under this
26 subsection (6).

27 (8) (a) ~~The board or office may accept a first-priority lien on~~

1 ~~project-related fixtures and equipment that must remain on site for the~~
2 ~~reclamation plan to be performed in lieu of including the cost of acquiring~~
3 ~~and installing such fixtures and equipment in the amount of the financial~~
4 ~~warranty prescribed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.~~

5 ~~(b) The board or office may accept a first-priority lien on~~
6 ~~project-related fixtures and equipment that must be demolished or~~
7 ~~removed from the site under a reclamation plan and may, in its discretion,~~
8 ~~accept such a lien as a portion of the proof of financial responsibility if~~
9 ~~the amount credited does not exceed the cost of demolishing and~~
10 ~~removing such fixtures and equipment or the market value of such~~
11 ~~fixtures and equipment, whichever is less.~~

12 ~~(c) Any fixtures and equipment accepted pursuant to this~~
13 ~~subsection (8) shall be insured and maintained in good operating~~
14 ~~condition and shall not be removed from the permit area without the prior~~
15 ~~consent of the board. A financial warrantor that provides a lien on such~~
16 ~~equipment and fixtures shall file an annual report with the office in~~
17 ~~sufficient detail to fully describe the condition, value, and location of all~~
18 ~~pledged fixtures and equipment. Such financial warrantor shall not pledge~~
19 ~~such equipment and fixtures to secure any other obligation and shall~~
20 ~~immediately notify the office of any other interest that arises in the~~
21 ~~pledged property.~~

22 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-32.5-118,
23 **amend** (5); and **repeal** (4)(b) as follows:

24 **34-32.5-118. Forfeiture of financial warranties.** (4) (b) ~~The~~
25 ~~amount of a forfeited financial warranty shall constitute a lien upon~~
26 ~~project-related fixtures or equipment offered as proof of financial~~
27 ~~responsibility pursuant to section 34-32.5-117. Such lien shall be in favor~~

1 of this state.

2 (5) ~~Funds~~ MONEY recovered by the attorney general in
3 proceedings brought pursuant to subsection (4) of this section shall be
4 held in the special account described in section 34-32.5-122 and shall be
5 used to reclaim lands covered by forfeited warranties. ~~except that five~~
6 ~~percent of the amount of such forfeited warranties shall be deposited in~~
7 ~~the mined land reclamation fund, created in section 34-32-127, to cover~~
8 ~~administrative costs incurred by the office in performing reclamation.~~ The
9 board ~~shall have~~ HAS a right of entry to reclaim ~~such~~ THE lands, and, upon
10 completion of ~~such~~ THE reclamation, the board shall present a full
11 accounting to the financial warrantor and ~~shall~~ refund all unspent ~~moneys~~
12 MONEY.

13 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 34-32.5-122
14 as follows:

15 **34-32.5-122. Fees, civil penalties, and forfeitures - deposit.**
16 ~~(†)~~ All fees and assessments collected pursuant to this ~~article~~ and ~~five~~
17 ~~percent of the proceeds of any financial warranty forfeited pursuant to~~
18 ~~section 34-32.5-123 for administrative costs associated with reclaiming~~
19 ~~sites for which the financial warranty has been revoked~~ ARTICLE 32.5
20 shall be deposited in the mined land reclamation fund created in section
21 34-32-127. All civil penalties collected pursuant to this ~~article~~ ARTICLE
22 32.5 shall be deposited in the general fund. ~~Ninety-five~~ ONE HUNDRED
23 percent of the proceeds of all financial warranties forfeited under section
24 34-32.5-118 shall be deposited in a special account in the general fund
25 established by the board for the purpose of reclaiming lands that were
26 required to be reclaimed under permits upon which ~~such~~ THE financial
27 warranties had been forfeited.

1 (c) MEASURES FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF
2 MINING ON LAND, WATER, AND OTHER RESOURCES MAY BE COSTLY, AND
3 THE DEVISING OF MEANS TO DEAL WITH THEM ARE OF BOTH PUBLIC AND
4 PRIVATE CONCERN;

5 (d) VARIABLES INCLUDING SOIL STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION,
6 PHYSIOGRAPHY, CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, AND THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC
7 MAKE IMPRACTICABLE THE APPLICATION TO ALL MINING AREAS OF A
8 SINGLE STANDARD FOR THE CONSERVATION, ADAPTATION, OR
9 RESTORATION OF MINED LAND OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL AND
10 OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES, BUT JUSTIFIABLE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW
11 AND PRACTICE RELATING TO THE EFFECTS OF MINING ON LANDS, WATER,
12 AND OTHER RESOURCES MAY BE REDUCED IN EQUITY OR EFFECTIVENESS
13 UNLESS THEY PERTAIN SIMILARLY FROM STATE TO STATE FOR ALL MINING
14 OPERATIONS SIMILARLY SITUATED; AND

15 (e) THE STATES ARE IN A POSITION AND HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY
16 TO ASSURE THAT MINING IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUND
17 CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES AND WITH DUE REGARD FOR LOCAL
18 CONDITIONS.

19 (2) **Purposes.** THE PURPOSES OF THIS COMPACT ARE TO:

20 (a) ADVANCE THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF LAND,
21 WATER, AND OTHER RESOURCES AFFECTED BY MINING;

22 (b) ASSIST IN THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OR
23 COUNTERACTING OF POLLUTION OR DETERIORATION OF LAND, WATER, AND
24 AIR ATTRIBUTABLE TO MINING;

25 (c) ENCOURAGE, WITH DUE RECOGNITION OF RELEVANT REGIONAL,
26 PHYSICAL, AND OTHER DIFFERENCES, PROGRAMS IN EACH OF THE PARTY
27 STATES THAT WILL ACHIEVE COMPARABLE RESULTS IN PROTECTING,

1 CONSERVING, AND IMPROVING THE USEFULNESS OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
2 TO THE END THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE CONDUCT OF MINING AND
3 RELATED OPERATIONS MAY BE UNIVERSALLY FACILITATED;

4 (d) ASSIST THE PARTY STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FACILITATE
5 THE USE OF LAND AND OTHER RESOURCES AFFECTED BY MINING, SO THAT
6 THE USE MAY BE CONSISTENT WITH SOUND LAND USE, PUBLIC HEALTH,
7 AND PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TO THIS END TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND,
8 WHEREVER DESIRABLE, TECHNIQUES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT,
9 RESTORATION, OR PROTECTION OF THE LAND AND OTHER RESOURCES; AND

10 (e) ASSIST IN ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING AN EFFICIENT AND
11 PRODUCTIVE MINING INDUSTRY AND IN INCREASING ECONOMIC AND OTHER
12 BENEFITS ATTRIBUTABLE TO MINING.

13 (3) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 50, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
14 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

15 (a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE INTERSTATE MINING COMMISSION
16 ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

17 (b) "MINING" MEANS THE BREAKING OF THE SURFACE SOIL IN
18 ORDER TO FACILITATE OR ACCOMPLISH THE EXTRACTION OR REMOVAL OF
19 MINERALS, ORES, OR OTHER SOLID MATTER; ANY ACTIVITY OR PROCESS
20 CONSTITUTING ALL OR PART OF A PROCESS FOR THE EXTRACTION OR
21 REMOVAL OF MINERALS, ORES, OR OTHER SOLID MATTER FROM ITS
22 ORIGINAL LOCATION; AND THE PREPARATION, WASHING, CLEANING, OR
23 OTHER TREATMENT OF MINERALS, ORES, OR OTHER SOLID MATTER SO AS
24 TO MAKE THEM SUITABLE FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, OR
25 CONSTRUCTION USE. "MINING" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

26 (I) ASPECTS OF DEEP MINING THAT DO NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT
27 EFFECT ON THE SURFACE; OR

1 (II) EXCAVATION OF GRADING WHEN CONDUCTED SOLELY IN AID
2 OF ON-SITE FARMING OR CONSTRUCTION.

3 (c) "STATE" MEANS A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, THE DISTRICT
4 OF COLUMBIA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, OR A TERRITORY
5 OR POSSESSION OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 (4) **State programs.** EACH PARTY STATE AGREES THAT WITHIN A
7 REASONABLE TIME IT WILL FORMULATE AND ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE
8 PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND USE OF MINED LAND BY THE
9 ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS, THE ENACTMENT OF LAWS, OR THE
10 CONTINUING OF THE SAME IN FORCE, TO ACCOMPLISH:

11 (a) THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PROTECTION OF
12 ADJOINING AND OTHER LANDOWNERS FROM DAMAGE TO THEIR LANDS AND
13 THE STRUCTURES AND OTHER PROPERTY ON THAT LAND RESULTING FROM
14 THE CONDUCT OF MINING OPERATIONS OR THE ABANDONMENT OR
15 NEGLECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY FORMERLY USED IN THE CONDUCT OF
16 THOSE OPERATIONS;

17 (b) THE CONDUCT OF MINING AND THE HANDLING OF REFUSE AND
18 OTHER MINING WASTES IN WAYS THAT WILL REDUCE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON
19 THE ECONOMIC, RESIDENTIAL, RECREATIONAL, OR AESTHETIC VALUE AND
20 UTILITY OF LAND AND WATER;

21 (c) THE INSTITUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUITABLE PROGRAMS
22 OF ADAPTATION, RESTORATION, AND REHABILITATION OF MINED LANDS;
23 AND

24 (d) THE PREVENTION, ABATEMENT, AND CONTROL OF WATER, AIR,
25 AND SOIL POLLUTION RESULTING FROM MINING IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND
26 FUTURE.

27 (5) **Powers.** IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS CONFERRED

1 UPON THE INTERSTATE MINING COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY SUBSECTION
2 (6) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE POWER TO:

3 (a) STUDY MINING OPERATIONS, PROCESSES, AND TECHNIQUES FOR
4 THE PURPOSE OF GAINING KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF THE
5 OPERATIONS, PROCESSES, AND TECHNIQUES ON LAND, SOIL, WATER, AIR,
6 PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE, RECREATION, AND PATTERNS OF COMMUNITY OR
7 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR CHANGE;

8 (b) STUDY THE CONSERVATION, ADAPTATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND
9 RESTORATION OF LAND AND RELATED RESOURCES AFFECTED BY MINING;

10 (c) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ANY ASPECT OR
11 ASPECTS OF LAW OR PRACTICE AND GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
12 DEALING WITH MATTERS WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THIS COMPACT;

13 (d) GATHER AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY OF
14 THE MATTERS WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THIS COMPACT;

15 (e) COOPERATE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ANY PUBLIC
16 OR PRIVATE ENTITIES HAVING INTERESTS IN ANY SUBJECT COMING WITHIN
17 THE PURVIEW OF THIS COMPACT;

18 (f) CONSULT, UPON THE REQUEST OF A PARTY STATE AND WITHIN
19 AVAILABLE RESOURCES, WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE STATE IN RESPECT TO
20 ANY PROBLEM WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THIS COMPACT;

21 (g) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANY
22 PRACTICE, PROCESS, TECHNIQUE, OR COURSE OF ACTION THAT MAY
23 IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF MINING OR THE ECONOMIC YIELD FROM
24 MINING OPERATIONS; AND

25 (h) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE
26 SAFEGUARDING OF ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT ARE OR MAY BECOME THE
27 SUBJECT OF MINING OPERATIONS TO THE END THAT THE NEEDS OF THE

1 ECONOMY FOR THE PRODUCTS OF MINING MAY NOT BE ADVERSELY
2 AFFECTED BY UNPLANNED OR INAPPROPRIATE USE OF LAND AND OTHER
3 RESOURCES CONTAINING MINERALS OR OTHERWISE CONNECTED WITH
4 ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL MINING SITES.

5 (6) **The commission.** (a) THE INTERSTATE MINING COMMISSION
6 IS COMPOSED OF ONE COMMISSIONER FROM EACH PARTY STATE WHO IS THE
7 GOVERNOR OF THAT STATE. PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF EACH PARTY
8 STATE, EACH GOVERNOR SHALL HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF AN ADVISORY
9 BODY, WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP FROM MINING INDUSTRIES,
10 CONSERVATION INTERESTS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS
11 AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE, IN CONSIDERING PROBLEMS RELATING TO MINING
12 AND IN DISCHARGING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS A COMMISSIONER ON THE
13 COMMISSION. IN ANY INSTANCE WHERE A GOVERNOR IS UNABLE TO
14 ATTEND A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OR PERFORM ANY OTHER
15 FUNCTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION, THE
16 GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE AN ALTERNATE FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS
17 OF THE ADVISORY BODY REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (6), WHO SHALL
18 REPRESENT THE GOVERNOR AND ACT IN THE GOVERNOR'S PLACE AND
19 STEAD. THE DESIGNATION OF AN ALTERNATE SHALL BE COMMUNICATED
20 BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE COMMISSION AS PROVIDED IN ITS BYLAWS.

21 (b) EACH COMMISSIONER IS ENTITLED TO ONE VOTE. AN ACTION OF
22 THE COMMISSION MAKING A RECOMMENDATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
23 (5)(c), (5)(g), OR (5)(h) OF THIS SECTION OR REQUESTING, ACCEPTING, OR
24 DISPOSING OF FUNDS, SERVICES, OR OTHER PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THIS
25 SUBSECTION (6)(b) OR SUBSECTION (6)(g), (6)(h), OR (8) OF THIS SECTION
26 SHALL NOT BE VALID UNLESS IT IS TAKEN AT A MEETING AT WHICH A
27 MAJORITY OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES ON THE COMMISSION IS CAST

1 IN FAVOR OF THE ACTION. ALL OTHER ACTIONS SHALL BE BY A MAJORITY
2 OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING, PROVIDED THAT ANY ACTION OF THE
3 COMMISSION MAY OCCUR ONLY AT A MEETING AT WHICH A MAJORITY OF
4 THE COMMISSIONERS, OR THEIR ALTERNATES, IS PRESENT. THE
5 COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES AS MAY BE
6 NECESSARY FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ITS BUSINESS. THE COMMISSION
7 MAY ACQUIRE, HOLD, AND CONVEY REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND
8 ANY INTEREST IN THAT PROPERTY.

9 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE A SEAL.

10 (d) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ANNUALLY, FROM AMONG ITS
11 MEMBERS, A PRESIDING OFFICER, A VICE-PRESIDING OFFICER, AND A
12 TREASURER. THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
13 AND FIX THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DUTIES AND COMPENSATION. THE
14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
15 COMMISSION. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE TREASURER, AND OTHER
16 PERSONNEL AS THE COMMISSION DESIGNATES SHALL BE BONDED. THE
17 AMOUNTS OF THE BONDS ARE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

18 (e) NOTWITHSTANDING THE CIVIL SERVICE, PERSONNEL, OR OTHER
19 MERIT SYSTEM LAWS OF ANY OF THE PARTY STATES, THE EXECUTIVE
20 DIRECTOR, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION, SHALL APPOINT,
21 REMOVE, OR DISCHARGE PERSONNEL AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE
22 PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S FUNCTIONS AND SHALL FIX THE
23 DUTIES AND COMPENSATION OF PERSONNEL.

24 (f) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN,
25 INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PARTY STATE, A SUITABLE
26 RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR ITS EMPLOYEES. EMPLOYEES OF THE
27 COMMISSION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE IN RESPECT

1 OF OLD AGE AND SURVIVOR'S INSURANCE PROVIDED THAT THE
2 COMMISSION TAKES STEPS NECESSARY PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF THE
3 UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM OF INSURANCE AS A
4 GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR UNIT. THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH AND
5 MAINTAIN OR PARTICIPATE IN ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYEE
6 BENEFITS AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

7 (g) THE COMMISSION MAY BORROW, ACCEPT, OR CONTRACT FOR
8 THE SERVICES OF PERSONNEL FROM ANY STATE, THE UNITED STATES, OR
9 ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR FROM ANY PERSON, FIRM,
10 ASSOCIATION, OR CORPORATION.

11 (h) THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT FOR ANY OF ITS PURPOSES AND
12 FUNCTIONS UNDER THIS COMPACT ANY AND ALL DONATIONS, AND GRANTS
13 OF MONEY, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, AND SERVICES,
14 CONDITIONAL OR OTHERWISE, FROM ANY STATE, THE UNITED STATES, OR
15 ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, OR FROM ANY PERSON, FIRM,
16 ASSOCIATION, OR CORPORATION, AND MAY RECEIVE, UTILIZE, AND DISPOSE
17 OF THE SAME. ANY DONATION OR GRANT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION
18 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (6)(h) OR SERVICES BORROWED PURSUANT
19 TO SUBSECTION (6)(g) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE REPORTED IN THE
20 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE
21 NATURE, AMOUNT, AND CONDITIONS, IF ANY, OF THE DONATION, GRANT,
22 OR SERVICES BORROWED AND THE IDENTITY OF THE DONOR OR LENDER.

23 (i) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT BYLAWS FOR THE CONDUCT OF
24 ITS BUSINESS AND HAS THE POWER TO AMEND AND RESCIND THESE
25 BYLAWS. THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH ITS BYLAWS IN CONVENIENT
26 FORM AND FILE A COPY OF ITS BYLAWS AND A COPY OF ANY AMENDMENT
27 TO THE BYLAWS WITH THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY OR OFFICER IN EACH OF

1 THE PARTY STATES.

2 (j) THE COMMISSION ANNUALLY SHALL MAKE TO EACH PARTY
3 STATE'S GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE, AND ADVISORY BODY REQUIRED BY
4 SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION A REPORT COVERING THE ACTIVITIES
5 OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR AND EMBODYING THE
6 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION MAY
7 MAKE ADDITIONAL REPORTS AS IT DEEMS DESIRABLE.

8 (7) **Advisory, technical, and regional committees.** THE
9 COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH ADVISORY, TECHNICAL, AND REGIONAL
10 COMMITTEES AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, MEMBERSHIP ON WHICH INCLUDES
11 PRIVATE PERSONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND SHALL COOPERATE WITH
12 THE USE AND SERVICES OF ANY COMMITTEES AND THE ORGANIZATIONS
13 THAT THE MEMBERS REPRESENT IN FURTHERING ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES.
14 THE COMMITTEES MAY BE FORMED TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS OF SPECIAL
15 INTEREST TO ANY PARTY STATES, PROBLEMS DEALING WITH PARTICULAR
16 COMMODITIES OR TYPES OF MINING OPERATIONS, PROBLEMS RELATED TO
17 RECLAMATION, DEVELOPMENT, OR USE OF MINED LAND, OR ANY OTHER
18 MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION.

19 (8) **Finance.** (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE
20 GOVERNOR OR DESIGNATED OFFICER OR OFFICERS OF EACH PARTY STATE
21 A BUDGET OF ITS ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR SUCH PERIOD AS MAY BE
22 REQUIRED BY THE LAWS OF THAT PARTY STATE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
23 LEGISLATURE.

24 (b) EACH OF THE COMMISSION'S BUDGETS OF ESTIMATED
25 EXPENDITURES SHALL CONTAIN SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
26 AMOUNT OR AMOUNTS TO BE APPROPRIATED BY EACH OF THE PARTY
27 STATES. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTED UNDER ANY

1 BUDGET SHALL BE APPORTIONED AMONG THE PARTY STATES AS FOLLOWS:
2 ONE-HALF IN EQUAL SHARES AND THE REMAINDER IN PROPORTION TO THE
3 VALUE OF MINERALS, ORES, AND OTHER SOLID MATTER MINED. IN
4 DETERMINING THE VALUES, THE COMMISSION SHALL EMPLOY AVAILABLE
5 PUBLIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION AS, IN ITS JUDGMENT, PRESENT THE
6 MOST EQUITABLE AND ACCURATE COMPARISONS AMONG THE PARTY
7 STATES. EACH OF THE COMMISSION'S BUDGETS OF ESTIMATED
8 EXPENDITURES AND REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS SHALL INDICATE THE
9 SOURCE OR SOURCES USED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
10 VALUE OF MINERALS, ORES, AND OTHER SOLID MATTER MINED.

11 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT PLEDGE THE CREDIT OF ANY
12 PARTY STATE. THE COMMISSION MAY MEET ANY OF ITS OBLIGATIONS IN
13 WHOLE OR IN PART WITH FUNDS AVAILABLE TO IT UNDER SUBSECTION
14 (6)(h) OF THIS SECTION; PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSION TAKES SPECIFIC
15 ACTION SETTING ASIDE THE FUNDS PRIOR TO INCURRING ANY OBLIGATION
16 TO BE MET IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN SUCH MANNER. EXCEPT WHERE THE
17 COMMISSION MAKES USE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO IT UNDER SUBSECTION
18 (6)(h) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT INCUR ANY
19 OBLIGATION PRIOR TO THE ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS BY THE PARTY STATES
20 ADEQUATE TO MEET THE SAME.

21 (d) THE COMMISSION SHALL KEEP ACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF ALL
22 RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF
23 THE COMMISSION ARE SUBJECT TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING
24 PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER ITS BYLAWS. ALL RECEIPTS AND
25 DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS HANDLED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
26 AUDITED YEARLY BY A QUALIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, AND THE REPORT
27 OF THE AUDIT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN AND BECOME PART OF THE ANNUAL

1 REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

2 (e) THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE OPEN AT ANY
3 REASONABLE TIME FOR INSPECTION BY DULY CONSTITUTED OFFICERS OF
4 THE PARTY STATES AND BY ANY PERSONS AUTHORIZED BY THE
5 COMMISSION.

6 (f) THIS COMPACT SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT
7 COMMISSION COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS RELATING TO THE AUDIT OR
8 INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS BY OR ON BEHALF OF ANY GOVERNMENT
9 CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

10 (9) **Entry into force and withdrawal.** (a) THIS COMPACT SHALL
11 ENTER INTO FORCE WHEN ENACTED INTO LAW BY ANY FOUR OR MORE
12 STATES. AFTER THAT ENACTMENT, THIS COMPACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE AS
13 TO ANY OTHER STATE UPON ITS ENACTMENT OF THE COMPACT.

14 (b) ANY PARTY STATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM THIS COMPACT BY
15 ENACTING A STATUTE REPEALING THE COMPACT, BUT WITHDRAWAL DOES
16 NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL ONE YEAR AFTER THE GOVERNOR OF THE
17 WITHDRAWING STATE HAS GIVEN NOTICE IN WRITING OF THE WITHDRAWAL
18 TO THE GOVERNORS OF ALL OTHER PARTY STATES. A WITHDRAWAL DOES
19 NOT AFFECT ANY LIABILITY ALREADY INCURRED BY OR CHARGEABLE TO
20 A PARTY STATE PRIOR TO THE TIME OF WITHDRAWAL.

21 (10) **Effect on other laws.** THIS COMPACT DOES NOT LIMIT,
22 REPEAL, OR SUPERSEDE ANY OTHER LAW OF ANY PARTY STATE.

23 (11) **Construction and severability.** THIS COMPACT SHALL BE
24 LIBERALLY CONSTRUED SO AS TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THE
25 COMPACT. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS COMPACT ARE SEVERABLE AND IF ANY
26 PHRASE, CLAUSE, SENTENCE, OR PROVISION OF THIS COMPACT IS DECLARED
27 TO BE CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ANY STATE OR OF THE UNITED

1 STATES, OR THE APPLICABILITY OF THE COMPACT TO ANY GOVERNMENT,
2 AGENCY, PERSON, OR CIRCUMSTANCE IS HELD INVALID, THE VALIDITY OF
3 THE REMAINDER OF THIS COMPACT AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE
4 COMPACT TO ANY GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, PERSON, OR CIRCUMSTANCE IS
5 NOT AFFECTED. IF THIS COMPACT IS HELD CONTRARY TO THE
6 CONSTITUTION OF ANY STATE PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPACT, THE
7 COMPACT REMAINS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS TO THE REMAINING
8 PARTY STATES AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS TO THE STATE
9 AFFECTED AS TO ALL SEVERABLE MATTERS.

10 **24-60-5004. Membership and applicability.** (1) THE GOVERNOR
11 MAY APPOINT A DESIGNEE TO SERVE AS THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL
12 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMPACT AND TO PERFORM ALL FUNCTIONS IN
13 CONNECTION WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPACT.

14 (2) PROVISIONS AND POLICIES OF THE INTERSTATE MINING
15 COMPACT MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, REPEAL, OR SUPERSEDE ANY
16 LAW OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

17 (3) (a) THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE, OR AGENTS OF
18 EITHER, MAY INSPECT THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSION AT
19 ANY REASONABLE TIME WHILE THE STATE IS A MEMBER.

20 (b) A COPY OF THE BYLAWS OF THE COMMISSION MUST BE PLACED
21 ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BE
22 AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT ANY REASONABLE TIME BY THE
23 LEGISLATURE OR ANY INTERESTED CITIZEN.

24 (4) THE STATE OF COLORADO IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE OBLIGATIONS
25 OR SOLVENCY OF:

26 (a) THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-60-5003

27 (6)(f); OR

1 (b) A PROGRAM OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
2 24-60-5003 (6)(f).

3 **24-60-5005. Expenses.** THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
4 RESOURCES MAY PAY ANNUALLY THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
5 PAYABLE TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATE OF
6 COLORADO IN THAT ORGANIZATION. THE MEMBERSHIP DUES SHALL BE
7 PAID FROM MONEY COLLECTED FROM MINING FEES, ABANDONED MINE
8 LAND FEES AND FUNDS, OR NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS OR FROM
9 MONEY GRANTED TO THE STATE BY THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF SURFACE
10 MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

11 **SECTION 20. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
14 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
16 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
17 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
18 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

