

title or of any regulation pursuant thereto; and to that end to institute actions at law, suits in equity or prosecutions; but such power shall not exclude any right of any person interested to invoke the usual and ordinary process of the courts against violators of the mining laws. In case any suit or proceeding is instituted by or against the Chief Mine Engineer or any district mine inspector, regarding any of the provisions of this sub-title, such Chief Mine Engineer or district mine inspector shall have the legal assistance of the Attorney-General.

TITLE II—INSPECTORS AND INSPECTIONS.

CHAPTER III—*Mine Inspectors.*

An. Code, 1924, sec. 29. 1922, ch. 307, sec. 28.

28. The Governor shall, upon the recommendation of the Chief Mine Engineer, appoint from a list of eligibles previously established by the State Employment Commissioner, such number of district mine inspectors, not less than two, as may from time to time be authorized by appropriation or other law. Before entering upon his duties, each such district inspector shall take the oath prescribed by the Constitution. Each district inspector shall be reimbursed his necessary traveling expenses upon monthly accounts properly supported by vouchers approved by the Chief Mine Engineer, within such amount as shall not exceed such allowance as may from time to time be provided therefor by appropriation or other law.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 30. 1922, ch. 307, sec. 29.

29. Such district mine inspectors shall be reputable citizens of Maryland, of temperate habits and known integrity, who shall each have attained the age of thirty years, and shall have had at least five years' practical experience as a working employee in the underground operations of coal mines in this State; who shall have passed a mine foreman examination before the Examining Board hereinafter provided for, and obtained a certificate of competency with a passing grade at least equal to eighty-five per centum, and shall have satisfied the State Employment Commissioner that he has such theoretical and practical knowledge of the working, ventilation, drainage and operation of bituminous coal mines and of all noxious and explosive gases found therein, and of the mining law of this State, and such personal fitness and ability as to be suited for the duties of such district mine inspector; provided, that four years after the passage of this sub-title, such district mine inspector shall be required to pass the first-grade mine foreman examination with a passing grade at least equal to eighty-five per centum.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 31. 1922, ch. 307, sec. 30.

30. Each of such district mine inspectors shall be assigned by the Bureau, and at need reassigned, to a prescribed inspection territory. The districts, covering the mining area of the State, shall be divided and from time to time redivided so as to be approximately equal in extent of labor and expense of inspection imposed upon each of such district mine inspectors. Each of such inspectors shall reside and maintain his office within the territory to which he may respectively be assigned. Each of such inspectors shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and shall have no interest, direct or indirect, in any mining operation or mining investment in this or any contiguous State.