

The General Assembly finds that the safety aspects of deep mining of coal are comprehensively regulated by the federal government today, and that many of the provisions contained in the Maryland law duplicate existing federal requirements. The General Assembly further finds that unlike the area of strip mining of coal, there are no provisions for adoption of a State program and subsequent resumption of full State authority over the safety aspects of deep mining. Consequently, it is considered to be appropriate to revoke those provisions which result in dual jurisdiction over deep mine operations. The General Assembly notes that the Bureau will retain authority to test and certify mining personnel, to inspect and issue orders on deep mine safety, and will retain authority over permit issuance and reclamation of deep mines pursuant to Subtitle 5A of Title 7 of the Natural Resources Article; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

7-101.

(a) In this title, the following words have the meanings indicated.

[(b) "Approved" means approbation evidenced by a written certificate or official letter of the Bureau, approving a device, plan, formula, method, machine, or course of action.

(c) "Authorized person" means any person commissioned by an official in charge in or at a mine to perform certain prescribed duties under his authority.]

[(d)] (B) "Bureau" means Bureau of Mines.

[(e) "Communication device" means any device employed to transmit intelligence, instruction, or warning to persons not present.

(f) "Crosscut" means a passage driven to connect adjacent parallel entries or rooms. The term is synonymous with "cut-through"; and between rooms, when driven wide is synonymous with "break-through."]

[(g)] (C) "Department" means Department of Natural Resources.

[(h)] (D) "Director" or "Director of the Bureau" means Director of the Bureau of Mines.

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