

(a) The Governor, with the advice of the Director, concurred in by the Secretary, shall appoint from a list of eligible persons established by the Secretary of Personnel, at least three district mine inspectors, as authorized by appropriation or other law. Before entering upon his duties, each district inspector shall take the oath prescribed by the Constitution. Each district inspector shall be reimbursed for necessary traveling expenses upon the presentation of monthly accounts properly supported by vouchers approved by the Director within the allowance provided in the State budget.

(b) Each inspector shall be a citizen of the State, who is at least 30 years old and has at least five years' practical experience as a working employee in the underground operations of coal mines in this State. He shall have passed a first-grade mine foreman examination before the examining board and obtained a certificate of competency. In addition, the inspector shall satisfy the Secretary of Personnel that he has theoretical and practical knowledge of the working, ventilation, drainage, and operation of bituminous coal mines and of all noxious and explosive gases found in them, of the mining law of the State, and is also suited for the duties required by this position.

(c) The bureau shall assign and reassign the district mine inspector to or from a prescribed inspection territory as necessary. The districts, covering the mining area of the State, shall be divided and redivided, depending on the work load of each inspector. Each inspector shall reside within his assigned inspection territory. Each inspector shall devote his entire time to the duties of this office, and may not have an interest, direct or indirect, in any mining operation or mining investment in this or any contiguous state.

(d) If a district mine inspector temporarily becomes incapacitated, is suspended for cause, or receives a leave of absence, the Director of the Bureau, subject to the rules of the State Department of Personnel, temporarily may employ a competent person to fill the office until the inspector returns to duty. However, temporary employment may not exceed 90 days. Any temporary employee shall be paid at the rate of compensation allowed for the inspector.]

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(c) An applicant for a fire-boss certificate of competence shall produce evidence satisfactory to the examining authority that he is a resident of the State, and at least 18 years of age. He shall furnish a verified history of his experience in mining employment, showing in detail the several mines in which he has worked, their location, the particular employment followed during a period of at least [one year] 3 YEARS, and, in particular, his knowledge of and extent of experience with gaseous mines.

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