

This bill increases the land reclamation fee from \$40 to \$75 per acre for each coal operator applying for a permit to mine coal by open-pit or strip method, and repeals the requirement that the State match this fee and deposit it in the Bituminous Coal Open-Pit Mining Reclamation Fund. Fee revenues are to be used to backfill, grade, and plant areas affected by open-pit mining.

House Bill 227, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 31, 1983, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 289.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 289

AN ACT concerning

Strip Mining of Coal - Reclamation of Land -  
Bond Forfeitures

FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that this State match a certain fee paid by a coal operator for each acre of land affected by open-pit or strip mining of coal in this State; increasing the fee that a coal operator must pay for each acre of land that the coal operator mines by open-pit or strip mining of coal; providing that the fee shall be paid only when an acre is initially permitted; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to use the fees generated under this Act to backfill, grade, and plant areas affected by open-pit or strip mining; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to cover certain deficiencies in the reclamation of open-pit or strip mined land; repealing certain provisions of law relating to the reclamation of strip mined land; and generally relating to reclaiming land affected by open-pit or strip mining.

BY repealing

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 7-501(y), 7-514.1, 7-514.2, 7-514.3, 7-514.4, and  
7-514.5  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1974 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 7-505(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland