

PROPOSED MINE SAFETY LEGISLATION

- * Directing a review of the state's existing enforcement laws and procedures by a independent investigation panel which is constituted by the Governor when a serous accident has occurred. The Panel will provide a impartial report on the causes of the accident and make recommendations of any identified changes in the state enforcement strategy to prevent future accidents.
- * Establishing a toll free number to allow miners to make anonymous tips about safety violations, and requiring mine operations to post the number at each mine.
- * Providing for additional miner safety training regarding miners rights to withdraw from unsafe conditions.
- * Enhancing penalties for certain safety violations. These include:
 - Increases maximum civil penalties for operators from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for violations of mining health and safety laws;
 - Increase penalty for making false statement to an investigator from maximum or \$5,000 to \$10,000 and increasing maximum from six months up to one year in jail;
 - Creating a new crime for knowing permitting or contributing to a violation or standard 1-5 year felony, up to \$10,000 fine; and
 - Creating new crime for causing advance notice of mine inspection, felony of 1-5 and fine up to \$15,000.
- * Authorizing miners to withdraw from unsafe working conditions, and prohibiting employers from taking punitive actions against miners who in good faith withdraw from a perceived unsafe condition.
- * Establishing additional miner safety training, including additional training related to repeated violations at individual mines.
- * Extending miners pay for periods of being idled by mining companies failure to remediate hazardous safety violations.
- * Providing opportunity for miners families to designate a person to be present in mine accident investigation.
- * Allowing miners discretion in allowing company and miner representatives participation in accident investigation interviews.
- * Requiring shut-off devices on mining apparatus that cause the machine to cut off when the methane level reaches 1.25 percent.

* Requiring a study be undertaken by the Office on Miners' Health, Safety and Training to assess the need to revise administrative enforcement processes and policies to promote timely and effective enforcement of mining safety laws.