

**Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB710

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Kilgore

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Use of mine voids.

5. Summary: This bill broadens the existing statutory provision for the owner(s) or lessee of a coal mineral estate or its successor, assign, sublessee, or affiliate so that he/they retain the rights to any coal remaining in place after the removal of surrounding coal, as well as the shell, container chamber, passage, space or void opened underground that was created by the removal of the coal. Accordingly, applications for a mining permit do not need to contain the name and address of the owner(s) of the shell, container chamber, passage or open spaces. The provisions of this bill do not affect contractual obligations entered into prior to July 1, 2013, that expressly prohibit the use of, or provide for the payment of compensation regarding, the use of any shell, container chamber, passage, space, or void opened underground that was created by the removal of coal. The provisions of this bill have no effect on the determination of ownership rights in natural gas or coalbed methane and shall not be construed to affect any litigation pending in a court of competent jurisdiction on or before January 1, 2013. Finally, the bill contains an enactment clause that delays its implementation until July 1, 2013.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the state.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 3/5/2012