

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2022 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4488**

BY DELEGATES ANDERSON, J. KELLY, HANSEN, AND

YOUNG

[Introduced February 1, 2022; referred  
to the Committee on Energy and Manufacturing then  
Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §22-11-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to coal mining, and changing fees for permitting actions.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **CHAPTER 22. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.**

### **ARTICLE 11. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.**

#### **§22-11-10. Water Quality Management Fund established; permit application fees; annual permit fees; dedication of proceeds; rules.**

1 (a) The special revenue fund designated the Water Quality Management Fund established  
2 in the State Treasury on July 1, 1989, is hereby continued.

3 (b) The permit application fees and annual permit fees established and collected pursuant  
4 to this section; any interest or surcharge assessed and collected by the secretary; interest  
5 accruing on investments and deposits of the fund; and any other moneys designated by the  
6 secretary shall be deposited into the Water Quality Management Fund. The secretary shall  
7 expend the proceeds of the Water Quality Management Fund for the review of initial permit  
8 applications, renewal permit applications, and permit issuance activities.

9 (c) The secretary shall propose for promulgation, legislative rules in accordance with the  
10 provisions of § 29A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, to establish a schedule of application fees for all  
11 applications except for surface coal mining operations as defined in § 22-3-13 of this code. The  
12 appropriate fee shall be submitted by the applicant to the department with the application filed  
13 pursuant to this article for any state water pollution control permit or national pollutant discharge  
14 elimination system permit. The schedule of application fees shall be designed to establish  
15 reasonable categories of permit application fees based upon the complexity of the permit  
16 application review process required by the department pursuant to the provisions of this article  
17 and the rules promulgated under this article: *Provided*, That no initial application fee may exceed  
18 \$15,000 for any facility nor may any permit renewal application fee exceed \$5,000. The

19 department may not process any permit application pursuant to this article until the required  
20 permit application fee has been received.

21 (d) The secretary shall propose for promulgation legislative rules in accordance with the  
22 provisions of § 29A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code to establish a schedule of permit fees to be assessed  
23 annually upon each person holding a state water pollution control permit or national pollutant  
24 discharge elimination system permit issued pursuant to this article except for permits held by  
25 surface coal mining operations as defined in § 22-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Each person holding a  
26 permit shall pay the prescribed annual permit fee to the department pursuant to the rules  
27 promulgated under this section: *Provided*, That no person holding a permit for a home aerator of  
28 600 gallons and under shall be required to pay an annual permit fee. The schedule of annual  
29 permit fees shall be designed to establish reasonable categories of annual permit fees based  
30 upon the relative potential of categories or permits to degrade the waters of the state: *Provided*,  
31 *however*, That no annual permit fee may exceed \$5,000. The secretary may declare any permit  
32 issued pursuant to this article void when the annual permit fee is more than 90 days past due  
33 pursuant to the rules promulgated under this section. Voiding of the permit will only become  
34 effective upon the date the secretary mails, by certified mail, written notice to the permittee's last  
35 known address notifying the permittee that the permit has been voided.

36 (e) The secretary shall file a quarterly report with the Joint Committee on Government and  
37 Finance setting forth the fees established and collected pursuant to this section.

38 (f) On July 1, ~~2002~~ 2022, and each year thereafter, a \$1,000 fee shall be assessed for  
39 permit applications and a \$3,000 fee shall be assessed for permit renewals submitted pursuant  
40 to this article for surface coal mining operations, as defined in §22-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. On  
41 July 1, ~~2002~~ 2022, and each year thereafter, a ~~\$500~~ \$2,000 fee shall be assessed for application  
42 for permit major modifications and a \$1,000 fee for permit minor modifications submitted pursuant  
43 to this article for surface coal mining operations, as defined in § 22-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. On  
44 July 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, a \$3,000 fee shall be assessed for application for permit

45 reissuance and a \$2,000 fee for permit transfer submitted pursuant to this article for surface coal  
46 mining operations, as defined in §22-3-1 et seq. of this code. Beginning July 1, 2002 2022, and  
47 every year thereafter, an annual permit fee of \$2,000 shall be assessed on the issuance  
48 anniversary dates of all permits issued pursuant to this article for surface coal mining operations  
49 as defined in § 22-3-1 et seq. of this code. The annual permit fee shall be collected as follows:  
50 \$500 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2002, and \$1,000 for each fiscal year thereafter On  
51 July 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, a \$500 fee for an application for the water quality  
52 certification that seeks certification of activities covered by the United States Army Corps of  
53 Engineers permits issued in accordance with 33 U.S.C. § 1344 and 33 C.F.R. Parts 323 or 330  
54 may be issued a certification in accordance with the legislative rules entitled Rules for Individual  
55 State Certification of Activities Requiring a Federal Permit, 47 C.F.R. 5A. For all other categories  
56 of permitting actions pursuant to this article related to surface coal mining operations, the  
57 secretary shall propose for promulgation legislative rules in accordance with the provisions of  
58 §29A-1-1 et seq. of this code to establish a schedule of permitting fees.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure full, adequate funding for the operation of the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Mining and Reclamation.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.