

## Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization West Virginia

### What is Abandoned Mine Land reauthorization?

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program was created by Congress in 1977 to reclaim mines abandoned prior to that date. Since then, the program has funded the remediation of mine sites that threaten public health and safety, including open mine shafts, mine fires, and acid mine drainage. The program is financed through a per-ton fee on coal production, which is set to expire in 2021 without Congressional action.

### The Numbers

- There is over \$11.5 billion of AML remaining across the United States
- Currently the fund has \$2.6 billion
- In 2018, coal companies operating in West Virginia paid \$13 million into the fund
- In 2018, West Virginia received \$36 million from the fund
- West Virginia still has **\$1.8 billion** worth of AML to reclaim

### The Bill - H.R. 1734

- Extends the AML fee at its current rate for an additional 15 years
- Increases state mandatory minimum distribution from \$3 million to \$5 million
- Reimburse states for AML fees that were sequestered since Fiscal Year 2013

### West Virginia AML unfunded cost by County

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Barbour - \$117 million   | • Logan - \$43.5 million      |
| • Boone - \$155 million     | • Marion - \$40 million       |
| • Braxton - \$11.4 million  | • Marshall - \$2.4 million    |
| • Brooke - \$87.2 million   | • Mason - \$3.9 million       |
| • Cabell - \$75,000         | • McDowell - \$88 million     |
| • Clay - \$4.5 million      | • Mercer - \$56 million       |
| • Fayette - \$40.9 million  | • Mineral - \$9.2 million     |
| • Gilmer - \$55.4 million   | • Mingo - \$21 million        |
| • Grant - \$22.1 million    | • Monongalia - \$45.1 million |
| • Greenbrier - \$47 million | • Nicholas - \$21.4 million   |
| • Hancock - \$3.5 million   | • Ohio - \$5.2 million        |
| • Harrison - \$213 million  | • Pleasants - \$912,000       |
| • Jackson - \$15,000        | • Pocahontas - \$8.9 million  |
| • Kanawha - \$234 million   | • Preston - \$134 million     |
| • Lewis - \$71.5 million    | • Putnam - \$463,000          |
| • Lincoln - \$2 million     | • Raleigh - \$41.7 million    |

- Randolph - \$21.5 million
- Summers - \$27,000
- Taylor - \$45.6 million
- Tucker - \$14.5 million
- Tyler - \$31,000

- Upshur - \$41.2 million
- Wayne - \$5.7 million
- Webster - \$15 million
- Wetzel - \$31,000
- Wyoming - \$64.2 million

**Other Materials**

[AML fee analysis](#)

[AML web story](#)