

Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Tennessee

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 cleanup remaining across the United States
- Currently the fund has \$2.6 billion
- In 2018, coal companies operating in Tennessee paid \$74,000 into the fund
- In 2018, Tennessee received \$2.8 million from the fund (should be \$3 million but was reduced due to sequestration)
- Tennessee still has \$47 million worth of AML liabilities 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 - this means Tennessee would receive an additional \$2 million *every year* going forward
- Reimburse states for AML fees that were sequestered since Fiscal Year 2013

Tennessee AML unfunded cost by County*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Anderson - \$4.4 million | ● Overton - \$861,000 |
| ● Bledsoe - \$830,000 | ● Pickett - \$880,000 |
| ● Campbell - \$12 million | ● Putnam - \$226,000 |
| ● Claiborne - \$2.6 million | ● Rhea - \$179,000 |
| ● Cumberland - \$794,000 | ● Roane - \$20,000 |
| ● Fentress - \$4.9 million | ● Scott - \$4.2 million |
| ● Grundy - \$2.3 million | ● Sequatchie - \$861,000 |
| ● Hamilton - \$2.9 million | ● Van Buren - \$1.5 million |
| ● Marion - \$2.8 million | ● White - \$290,000 |
| ● Morgan - \$3.7 million | |

*as of 2019

Other Materials

[AML fee analysis](#)

[AML web story](#)