

House Bill 3090

Sponsored by Representatives BENTZ, WITT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to conduct study on consolidating permit processes for mining and present report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment and natural resources on or before September 15, 2016.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mining.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

5 **(1) Mining contributes to the economy and well-being of the people of Oregon. Mining**
6 **creates high-paying jobs in parts of this state that, due to a lack of infrastructure and de-**
7 **velopment, are less likely to be capable of diversifying beyond a regional economy based on**
8 **natural resources. Mining creates secondary industries in the surrounding region and at-**
9 **tracts numerous providers of goods and services. Mining also generates significant tax re-**
10 **venues for local governments and provides support for civic and educational projects in local**
11 **communities.**

12 **(2) The mining of minerals is a natural resource use.**

13 **(3) In eastern Oregon, including Lake, Harney, Malheur, Baker and Grant Counties, di-**
14 **versifying the types of natural resource uses that contribute to local economies enables**
15 **those economies to better withstand temporary economic declines that affect specific natural**
16 **resource uses. In the same way that a diversified economy is good for a large metropolitan**
17 **area, a diversified natural resource economy is good for eastern Oregon.**

18 **(4) Technological advances in the mining industry, coupled with reclamation efforts, have**
19 **greatly reduced the environmental impacts of mining operations. The size and scope of**
20 **modern operations is such that the operations do not cause interference with other natural**
21 **resource uses, particularly in an area as vast as eastern Oregon.**

22 **(5) Mining operations should be encouraged and supported in eastern Oregon as a means**
23 **for residents and communities to improve their economies and well-being.**

24 **SECTION 2. The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shall conduct a**
25 **study on consolidating permit processes for mining and present the results of the study in**
26 **a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to environment and**
27 **natural resources in the manner provided under ORS 192.245 on or before September 15, 2016.**

28 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed on January 2, 2017.**

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.