

**House File 1029 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 1029  
BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 225)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for regulation of certain noncoal mine sites,  
2 including the reclamation of land above active underground  
3 mine sites disturbed by the formation of sinkholes, providing  
4 fees, making penalties applicable, and including effective  
5 date provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **208.6 Maps.**

2 Upon request by the division, the state geologist shall  
3 furnish the division with the latest filed maps and extensions  
4 of active mine sites pursuant to section 456.11.

5 Sec. 2. Section 208.7, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **208.7 Mining license — fees and expiration.**

8 An operator shall not engage in mining as ~~defined by section~~  
9 ~~208.2~~ without first obtaining a license from the division. A  
10 license shall be issued and renewed upon approval by the division  
11 following the submission of a completed application by the  
12 operator. An application shall be submitted on a form provided  
13 by the division and shall be accompanied by a license fee of  
14 fifty seventy-five dollars. Each applicant shall be required  
15 to furnish on the form information necessary to identify the  
16 applicant. The initial license shall expire on December 31 of  
17 the year of issue. An initial license shall be renewed by the  
18 division as required by the division. The renewed license shall  
19 expire the last day of the second December following the date  
20 of issue. The division shall renew a license upon approving an  
21 application submitted within thirty days prior to the expiration  
22 date. The application for a renewed license must be accompanied  
23 by a fee of twenty dollars. A political subdivision shall not be  
24 required to pay a license fee.

25 Sec. 3. Section 208.8, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 1. The division may, ~~for repeated or willful~~ for a violation  
28 of any of the provisions of this chapter, including the violation  
29 of a rule adopted or an order issued pursuant to this chapter,  
30 initiate an action to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a  
31 mining license.

32 Sec. 4. Section 208.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
33 following new subsection:

34 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. An operator of an active underground  
35 mine site shall immediately notify the division of the formation

1 of a sinkhole located at or above the underground mine site.

2 Sec. 5. Section 208.10A, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
3 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

4 Any A person who violates an order issued pursuant to section  
5 208.10 or 208.17A shall be subject to an administrative penalty  
6 determined by the division not to exceed five thousand dollars  
7 per violation.

8 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **208.17A Active underground mines.**

9 1. The division may adopt rules providing for the reclamation  
10 of lands disturbed due to the formation of a sinkhole at or  
11 above an active underground mine site required to be registered  
12 pursuant to section 208.9. The administrator may issue an  
13 emergency remediation order to the operator of the mine requiring  
14 immediate restoration. The division shall deliver a copy of the  
15 emergency reclamation order to the operator by personal service.

16 2. The division may require the operator to submit to the  
17 division for approval a remediation plan or statement affirming  
18 that the remediation has been completed in compliance with  
19 division requirements.

20 Sec. 7. Section 208.19, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
21 following new subsection:

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. This section does not apply to the  
23 reclamation of an active underground mine site as provided in  
24 section 208.17A.

25 Sec. 8. Section 208.20, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 **208.20 Extension of time.**

28 The time for completion of reclamation work may be extended  
29 upon presentation by the operator of evidence satisfactory to  
30 the division that the reclamation of affected land cannot be  
31 completed within the time specified by section 208.17A or 208.19.

32 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **208.24A Use of single or multiple**  
33 **bonds.**

34 Regardless of whether an operator posts a number of multiple  
35 bonds each for a single mine site or a single bond for multiple

1 mine sites, the total amount of the multiple bonds combined or  
2 the single bond shall be applied to cover the costs of completing  
3 the reclamation of lands at any one mine site required to be  
4 registered pursuant to section 208.9.

5 Sec. 10. Section 456.11, subsection 9, Code 2025, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 9. ~~Abandoned mine~~ Mines.

8 a. When ~~any an~~ an underground mine is worked out or is about  
9 to be abandoned or indefinitely closed, the operator of the same  
10 shall make or cause to be made a completed and extended map  
11 of the mine and the result of the same shall be duly extended  
12 on all maps of the mine and copies thereof so as to show all  
13 excavations and the most advanced workings of the mine, and their  
14 exact relation to the boundary or section lines on the surface,  
15 and deliver to the state geologist a copy of the completed map.

16 b. When an underground mining site is active, its operator  
17 shall provide a current map and current map extensions of the  
18 active underground mining site to the state geologist as required  
19 by the state geologist. The state geologist shall deliver a copy  
20 of the current map and current map extensions to the division  
21 of soil conservation and water quality of the department of  
22 agriculture and land stewardship as provided in section 208.6.

23 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
24 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 BACKGROUND. This bill amends provisions in Code chapter 208  
29 regulating the mining of minerals, including surface mining  
30 and underground mining, other than for coal, and provides  
31 requirements for the reclamation of lands at the mine site.  
32 The provisions are administered and enforced by the division of  
33 soil and water conservation (division), an administrative unit  
34 of the department of agriculture and land stewardship (Code  
35 chapter 159). The provisions regulate a person engaged in and

1 controlling the mining operation (operator). This includes a  
2 requirement that the operator be issued a license (Code sections  
3 208.7 and 208.8) and register the mine being operated (Code  
4 sections 208.9 and 209.15). The initial license application  
5 fee is \$50. The license renewal application fee is \$20. The  
6 registration must be accompanied by a bond or other security.  
7 The bonding provisions include requirements for the posting of  
8 one bond covering multiple mine sites, and the cancellation or  
9 forfeiture of the bond (Code sections 208.23, 208.24, 208.25,  
10 208.26, and 208.28). After the completion of mining operations,  
11 the operator must engage in the reclamation of the land disturbed  
12 by mining operations, which may include grading, stabilizing,  
13 and revegetating the disturbed lands (Code section 208.17). The  
14 division may issue an order directing an operator to desist in  
15 an activity that constitutes a violation of the Code chapter  
16 and a person who violates such an order is subject to an  
17 administratively assessed civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per  
18 violation (Code section 208.10A). Alternatively, the division  
19 may notify the attorney general to institute a civil action in  
20 district court for injunctive relief and for the assessment of a  
21 civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per violation.

22 BILL'S PROVISIONS. The bill increases the initial license  
23 application fee to \$75. The bill provides requirements when the  
24 operator is actively engaged in mining belowground where land at  
25 or above the mine site, required to be registered, has collapsed  
26 in the form of a sinkhole. The bill requires the operator to  
27 immediately notify the division of the sinkhole. The division  
28 may adopt rules providing for the reclamation of lands disturbed  
29 due to the formation of a sinkhole at or above an active  
30 underground mine site. The division may issue an emergency  
31 remediation order to the operator of the mine requiring immediate  
32 restoration. The division may also require the operator to  
33 submit to the division for approval a remediation plan or  
34 statement affirming that the remediation has been completed in  
35 compliance with division requirements. The total amount of the

1 combined bonds posted by an operator may be applied to cover the  
2 costs of reclaiming land disturbed at any one mine site.

3 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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