

**House Study Bill 225 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON WAYS  
AND MEANS BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
KAUFMANN)

**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, making  
4 penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

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 208.8, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 1. The division may, ~~for repeated or willful~~ for a violation  
8 of any of the provisions of this chapter, including the violation  
9 of a rule adopted or an order issued pursuant to this chapter,  
10 initiate an action to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a  
11 mining license.

12 Sec. 3. Section 208.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
13 following new subsection:

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. An operator of an active underground  
15 mine site shall immediately notify the division of the formation  
16 of a sinkhole located at or above the underground mine site.

17 Sec. 4. Section 208.10A, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
18 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

19 ~~Any~~ A person who violates an order issued pursuant to section  
20 208.10 or 208.17A shall be subject to an administrative penalty  
21 determined by the division not to exceed five thousand dollars  
22 per violation.

23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **208.17A Active underground mines.**

24 1. The division may adopt rules providing for the reclamation  
25 of lands disturbed due to the formation of a sinkhole at or  
26 above an active underground mine site required to be registered  
27 pursuant to section 208.9. The administrator may issue an  
28 emergency remediation order to the operator of the mine requiring  
29 immediate restoration. The division shall deliver a copy of the  
30 emergency reclamation order to the operator by personal service.

31 2. The division may require the operator to submit to the  
32 division for approval a remediation plan or statement affirming  
33 that the remediation has been completed in compliance with  
34 division requirements.

35 Sec. 6. Section 208.19, Code 2025, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

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

5 Sec. 7. Section 208.20, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **208.20 Extension of time.**

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

12 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. **208.24A Use of single or multiple**  
13 **bonds.**

14 Regardless of whether an operator posts a number of multiple  
15 bonds each for a single mine site or a single bond for multiple  
16 mine sites, the total amount of the multiple bonds combined or  
17 the single bond shall be applied to cover the costs of completing  
18 the reclamation of lands at any one mine site required to be  
19 registered pursuant to section 208.9.

20 Sec. 9. Section 456.11, subsection 9, Code 2025, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 9. ~~Abandoned mine~~ Mines.

23 a. When any an underground mine is worked out or is about  
24 to be abandoned or indefinitely closed, the operator of the same  
25 shall make or cause to be made a completed and extended map  
26 of the mine and the result of the same shall be duly extended  
27 on all maps of the mine and copies thereof so as to show all  
28 excavations and the most advanced workings of the mine, and their  
29 exact relation to the boundary or section lines on the surface,  
30 and deliver to the state geologist a copy of the completed map.

31 b. When an underground mining site is active, its operator  
32 shall provide a current map and current map extensions of the  
33 active underground mining site to the state geologist as required  
34 by the state geologist. The state geologist shall deliver a copy  
35 of the current map and current map extensions to the division

1 of soil conservation and water quality of the department of  
2 agriculture and land stewardship as provided in section 208.6.

3 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
4 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

5 EXPLANATION

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

8 BACKGROUND. This bill amends provisions in Code chapter 208  
9 regulating the mining of minerals, including surface mining  
10 and underground mining, other than for coal, and provides  
11 requirements for the reclamation of lands at the mine site.  
12 The provisions are administered and enforced by the division of  
13 soil and water conservation (division), an administrative unit  
14 of the department of agriculture and land stewardship (Code  
15 chapter 159). The provisions regulate a person engaged in and  
16 controlling the mining operation (operator). This includes a  
17 requirement that the operator be issued a license (Code sections  
18 208.7 and 208.8) and register the mine being operated (Code  
19 sections 208.9 and 209.15). The registration must be accompanied  
20 by a bond or other security. The bonding provisions include  
21 requirements for the posting of one bond covering multiple mine  
22 sites, and the cancellation or forfeiture of the bond (Code  
23 sections 208.23, 208.24, 208.25, 208.26, and 208.28). After the  
24 completion of mining operations, the operator must engage in the  
25 reclamation of the land disturbed by mining operations, which  
26 may include grading, stabilizing, and revegetating the disturbed  
27 lands (Code section 208.17). The division may issue an order  
28 directing an operator to desist in an activity that constitutes  
29 a violation of the Code chapter and a person who violates  
30 such an order is subject to an administratively assessed civil  
31 penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation (Code section 208.10A).  
32 Alternatively, the division may notify the attorney general to  
33 institute a civil action in district court for injunctive relief  
34 and for the assessment of a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000  
35 per violation.

1 BILL'S PROVISIONS. The bill provides requirements when the  
2 operator is actively engaged in mining belowground where land at  
3 or above the mine site, required to be registered, has collapsed  
4 in the form of a sinkhole. The bill requires the operator to  
5 immediately notify the division of the sinkhole. The division  
6 may adopt rules providing for the reclamation of lands disturbed  
7 due to the formation of a sinkhole at or above an active  
8 underground mine site. The division may issue an emergency  
9 remediation order to the operator of the mine requiring immediate  
10 restoration. The division may also require the operator to  
11 submit to the division for approval a remediation plan or  
12 statement affirming that the remediation has been completed in  
13 compliance with division requirements. The total amount of the  
14 combined bonds posted by an operator may be applied to cover the  
15 costs of reclaiming land disturbed at any one mine site.  
16 The bill takes effect upon enactment.