

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LD 1363

Date 6/7/23

MAJORITY

(Filing No H-384)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to HP 877, L.D. 1363, "An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §490-MM, sub-§3-A is enacted to read

3-A. Cement. "Cement" means any of various calcined mixtures of clay and limestone that can be mixed with water and used as an ingredient in making mortar or concrete

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §490-MM, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 653, §23 and affected by §33, is amended to read

8. Metallic mineral. "Metallic mineral" means any mineral, ore or excavated material to be excavated from the natural deposits on or in the earth for its metallic mineral content to be used for commercial or industrial purposes. "Metallic mineral" does not include thorium or uranium that has metal or a metalloid element as its economically valuable constituent, regardless of the chemical end product of the metal or metalloid element

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §490-MM, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 653, §23 and affected by §33, is amended to read

11. Mining, mining operation or mining activity. "Mining," "mining operation" or "mining activity" means activities, facilities or processes necessary for the extraction or removal of metallic minerals or overburden or for the preparation, washing, cleaning or other treatment of metallic minerals and includes the bulk sampling, advanced exploitation, extraction or beneficiation of metallic minerals as well as waste storage and other stockpiles and reclamation activities, but does not include exploration- or any of the following activities

A. The physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting, storage or heating of calcium carbonate or limestone to produce cement when such activity is subject to article 6, article 8-A or Title 12, chapter 206-A or when such activity covers one acre or less of surface area in total.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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B The exploration for or physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting or storage of borrow, topsoil, clay or silt when such activity is subject to article 7 or Title 12, chapter 206-A or when such activity covers 5 acres or less of surface area in total,

C The exploration for or physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting or storage of gemstones, aggregate, dimension stone or other construction materials from a quarry that is subject to article 8-A or Title 12, chapter 206-A or when such activity covers one acre or less of surface area in total, and

D The exploration for or physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting or storage of any other metallic minerals when such activity has been excluded from the requirements of this article pursuant to a determination made by the department under section 490-NN, subsection 4

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §490-NN, sub-§4 is enacted to read

4. Determination of applicability of Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act requirements. As provided in this subsection and following the adoption of rules by the department pursuant to this subsection, a person proposing to conduct exploration for or physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting or storage of metallic minerals as described in section 490-MM, subsection 11, paragraph D may request a written determination from the department that the requirements of this article do not apply to the activity. The department shall adopt rules governing the requirements for issuance of such a determination under this subsection, which must include, but are not limited to

A Provisions for ensuring that the activity will generate only mine waste that does not have the potential to create acid rock drainage, alkali rock drainage or drainage or other discharges that could cause violations of water quality criteria or standards other than sedimentation or turbidity and will not release or expose radioactive or other materials that could endanger human health or the environment. The provisions under this paragraph must include, but are not limited to, preextraction sampling requirements,

B Provisions for ensuring that the activity, if excluded from the requirements of this article, is subject to requirements of article 6, article 8-A or Title 12, chapter 206-A as applicable, and

C Provisions for requiring monitoring as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable standards and to protect water quality and human health during and after the activity.

An activity excluded from the requirements of this article as determined by the department pursuant to this subsection is not subject to the otherwise applicable requirements of this article, the otherwise applicable rules adopted pursuant to this article, except for those rules adopted by the department pursuant to this subsection, or the fees for metallic mineral mining set forth in section 352, subsection 4-A. Rules adopted by the department pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules, as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §490-NN, sub-§5 is enacted to read

5. Mining excise tax. A person engaging in mining activities pursuant to this article and a person, pursuant to article 6, article 8-A or Title 12, chapter 206-A, engaging in activities described in section 490-MM, subsection 11, paragraph D following a

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1 determination by the department under subsection 4 is subject to the mining excise tax
2 under Title 36, chapter 371. A person engaging in the activities described in section
3 490-MM, subsection 11, paragraphs A to C is not subject to the mining excise tax under
4 Title 36, chapter 371.

5 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
6 number to read consecutively

7 SUMMARY

8 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill. Like
9 the bill, it amends the definition of "metallic mineral" in the Maine Metallic Mineral
10 Mining Act. It also amends the definition of "mining" to exclude under specific
11 circumstances the physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting, storage or heating of
12 calcium carbonate or limestone to produce cement and the exploration for or physical
13 extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting and storage of borrow, topsoil, clay or silt and
14 gemstones, aggregate, dimension stone or other construction materials from a quarry. It
15 also provides that a person engaging in mining activities pursuant to the Maine Metallic
16 Mineral Mining Act is subject to the mining excise tax under the Maine Revised Statutes,
17 Title 36, chapter 371.

18 The amendment also establishes a mechanism by which a person proposing to conduct
19 exploration for or physical extraction, crushing, grinding, sorting or storage of metallic
20 minerals may request a written determination from the Department of Environmental
21 Protection that the requirements of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act do not apply to
22 the activity. The department is directed to adopt major substantive rules governing such
23 determinations, which must require, for such exclusion, that the activity will generate only
24 mine waste that does not have the potential to create acid rock drainage, alkali rock drainage
25 or drainage or other discharges that could cause violations of water quality criteria or
26 standards other than sedimentation or turbidity and will not release or expose radioactive
27 or other materials that could endanger human health or the environment. The rules must
28 also require that the activity, if excluded from the requirements of the Maine Metallic
29 Mineral Mining Act, is subject to requirements of Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article
30 6 or article 8-A or Title 12, chapter 206-A, as applicable, and the amendment provides that
31 such activities are subject to the mining excise tax under Title 36, chapter 371.

32 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

33 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1363

LR 420(02)

An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-384)

Committee: Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds
Current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds
Current biennium revenue increase - General Fund
Current biennium revenue increase - Municipalities

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill changes the definition of "metallic mineral" to exclude certain activities from the definition of "mining" in the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act (MMMMMA), allowing them to continue to be conducted under site location or quarry rules issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The bill creates a process for individuals to request a determination from DEP that certain activities related to the definition of "metallic mineral" or "mining" are exempt from provisions of the MMMMA, but are subject to the provisions of rules governing site location or quarries. The bill requires that these exempted activities remain subject to the mining excise tax.

This bill will increase Other Special Revenue Funds revenue to the DEP from new site location or quarry permits issued. If applicants are approved, mining excise tax revenues would be received. Under current statute, the revenue will reimburse municipalities and unorganized territories for at least 50%, and if sufficiently available 100%, of the property tax revenue loss suffered by that municipality or unorganized territory as a result of property tax exemptions created under the mining excise tax statute. 25% of any remaining revenues would be paid to DEP for oversight of mining activity and 75% would be credited to the General Fund.