

surface mining program is Henderson County. This proposal would delete the provision that allows Henderson County to operate its own surface mining regulatory program.

Currently the county issues permits and requires bonds in addition to the permits issued by the Department for Natural Resources (DNR) and the bonds required by DNR. HB 543 GA would remove the dual regulatory application of the Henderson County program making mining in Henderson County equivalent to mining in other counties within the Commonwealth. There is a \$250 fee to obtain a permit. Identical fees are required for increasing the land area under the permit and for renewing a permit.

There is no mining in Henderson County today. The only activity being done today is reclamation work. The bill as introduced does not address how bonding related to this reclamation may be transferred. There are currently \$21 million in bonds related to county permits and \$8 million in bonds related to state permits. However, the bonds are held by a third party so there is no impact to local government related to the bonds.

There will be no personnel impact to the county. The county engineer handles the inspections as part of his current responsibilities. There may be a minimal administrative savings related to the dissolution of a committee charged with overseeing surface mining activity within the county. This committee makes referrals and recommendations to the fiscal court.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff. Department of Natural Resources. Henderson County Code of Ordinances.

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 3/2/15