

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 38

SESSION: 2013 Regular Session

TOPIC: Mine inspections (metallic mineral mining)

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Overview

Modifies and updates the law governing county mine inspections. Effective August 1, 2013.

Section

- 1 **Appointment.** Updates and strikes language relating to terms, compensation of county appointees as mine inspectors.
- 2 **Definitions.** Adds a section defining terms used in the chapter. "Mining" relates to mining of metallic minerals.
- 3 **Qualifications, oath.** Strikes language specifying terms, compensation, and bond of mine inspectors. Provides that a person appointed as an inspector must have at least two years practical experience in mining and mining-related safety work and take an oath.
- 4 **Duties.** Updates language and modifies duties of mine inspectors. Applies to mining operations for which a permit has been obtained from the Department of Natural Resources. Permits a county to abate a nuisance and recover the costs as a special assessment. Strikes exemption from the abandoned mine provisions for cold water aquaculture businesses.
- 5 **Requiring employees to work after order to cease; liability of employer.** Technical.
- 6 **Inspector, powers; owner, duties.** Clarifications, technical. Strikes the fine amounts, and leaves in place language specifying that violation is a gross misdemeanor.

Under Minn. Stat. § 609.02, subd. 4, "Gross misdemeanor" means any crime which is not a felony or misdemeanor. The maximum fine which may be imposed for a gross misdemeanor is \$3,000."

Section

- 7** **Accidents; notice, investigation.** Requires notice of a reportable accident to the inspector of mines as soon as practical but at least within one hour of stabilization of the accident scene. Allows representatives of the employees, management, and the inspector to waive the requirement that they accompany the inspector investigating an accident scene.
- 8** **Removal of fence; guard.** Technical, updates language.
- 9** **Annual report.** Updates language. Strikes required reporting on wages. Requires report on the number of accidents to also describe the accidents.
- 10** **Violations.** Strikes the fine amounts, and leaves in place language specifying that violation is a gross misdemeanor. Technical.
- 11** **Neglect of inspector.** Technical.
- 12** **Repealer.** Repeals Minn. Stat. §§ 180.06 (salary and expenses of the mine inspector), and 180.09 (requiring the owner, operator, or agent of the mine to keep on hand a sufficient supply of timber and logging for use as supports, props).