



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

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Summary House Bill 608, P.N. 592

Prime Sponsor: Representative Brooks

Overview

- Amends the act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act.
- Requires the department to encourage and promote the use of switchgrass, camelina, canola and other bioenergy crops for the revegetation of lands affected by surface mining activities and the land so used shall be considered to be cropland for post-mining land use purposes.
- The legislation also directs DEP to make available, at no cost to the permittee of a remaining site, sum-certain guarantees to cover Stage III reclamation liability under their reclamation bond, if the site is revegetated using switchgrass or other bioenergy crops.

Effective Date

- This act shall take effect in 60 days.