WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1941

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 370

(By Mr. Speaker, mr. assented.)

PASSED March 8, 1941

In Effect sixty days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact sections seven, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, article one, chapter twenty-two of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, relating to inspections and rescue work by the department of mines.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections seven, nine, ten, eleven and twelve, article one, chapter twenty-two of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Article 1. Department of Mines.

Section 7. Mining Districts and Divisions; Mine Inspectors; Term of Office.—The chief of the department of mines shall divide the state into not less than twenty-five mining districts and not less than three mining divisions so as to equalize as far as practicable the work of each in-
The chief of the department of mines shall appoint one inspector for each mining district within the state, and one mine inspector at large for each division. The mine inspectors in office on the date this code takes effect shall, unless sooner removed as provided by law, continue to serve until their terms expire and their successors have been appointed and have qualified. On or after the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred forty-two, and on or after the first day of January of each fourth year thereafter, the chief of the department of mines appointed for the term commencing on said first day of January shall appoint one inspector for each mining district within the state, and one mine inspector at large for each division to serve for a term of four years commencing on said first day of January.

The chief of the department of mines may assign any person meeting the qualifications of a mine inspector to temporary duty as a mine inspector with the same authority as a mine inspector.

Sec. 9. Same; Inspections; Reports.—Each of the mine inspectors shall report in writing, weekly, to the chief of
the department of mines, the number and condition of
call mines inspected by him during each week, and shall
deliver to the operator or operators of each mine inspected
a certificate of inspection, and shall post a duplicate cer-
tificate at a prominent place of the operating company
where it may conveniently be read by any of the mine
employees. The duplicate shall remain posted until a sub-
sequent certificate is issued by the mine inspector. A
mine inspector appointed for a particular district shall
visit each mine in his district at least once in every three
months unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances,
or oftener if called upon in writing by ten men engaged
in any one mine, or by the owner, operator or superin-
tendent of such mine, and make a personal examination
of each working place, and also entrances to abandoned
parts of the mine where gas is liberated, and outside of
the mine where any danger may exist to the workmen in
their respective districts, and shall particularly examine
into the condition of the mine as to ventilation, drainage
and general safety, and shall make a report of such ex-
amination, and he shall see that all provisions of the min-
ing statutes, requirements of the department of mines and written instructions of the mine inspectors, are strictly carried out.

Sec. 10. Mine Rescue Stations; Equipment.—The chief of the state department of mines is hereby authorized to purchase, equip and operate for the use of said department such mine rescue stations and equipment as he may deem necessary.

Sec. 11. Mine Rescue Crews.—The chief of the state department of mines is hereby authorized to have trained and employed at the rescue stations operated by that department within the State, such rescue crews as he may deem necessary. Each member of a rescue crew shall devote four hours each month for training purposes, and shall be available at all times to assist in rescue work at explosions and mine fires. Regular members shall receive for such services the sum of four dollars per month and captains shall receive five dollars per month, payable on requisition approved by the chief of the department of mines, and such other sums, to be paid by the operating company, as may be agreed upon when engaged
in rescue work at explosions or mine fires. The chief of
the department of mines may remove any member of a
rescue crew at any time.

Sec. 12. Directors of Mine Rescue Work.—The chief of
the department of mines is hereby authorized to assign
mine rescue teams and such mine rescue and recovery
work to inspectors or other employees of the department
of mines as he may deem necessary.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signatures]

Chairman Senate Committee

[Signature]

Chairman House Committee

[Signature]

Originated in the House of Delegates

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

[Signature]

Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]

Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]

President of the Senate

[Signature]

Speaker House of Delegates

[Signature]

The within is approved this the 14th day of March, 1941.

[Signature]

Governor

[Signature]

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia on [Date] by [Signature] Wm. S. O'Brien, Secretary of State