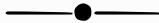


WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1961



421  
**ENROLLED**

HOUSE BILL No. 421.....

(By Mr. *Speaker, Mr. Singleton*)



PASSED *March 9th*, 1961

In Effect *ninety days from* passage



Filed in Office of the Secretary of State  
of West Virginia **MAR 17 1961**

**JOE F. BURDETT**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**ENROLLED**  
**House Bill No. 421**

(By MR. SPEAKER, MR. SINGLETON)

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[Passed March 9, 1961; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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AN ACT to amend and reenact section thirty-three, article two, chapter twenty-two of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to blasting in coal mines.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That section thirty-three, article two, chapter twenty-two of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 33. *Preparation of Shots; Blasting Practices.*—

- 2 Only competent and experienced persons designated by
- 3 mine management shall be permitted to handle explosives
- 4 and to do blasting. Only electric detonators of proper
- 5 strength fired with permissible shot firing units shall be
- 6 used except under special permits as hereinafter provided,
- 7 and drillholes shall be stemmed with at least twenty-four

8 inches of incombustible material, or at least one-half of  
9 the length of the hole shall be stemmed if the hole is less  
10 than four feet in depth unless other permissible stemming  
11 devices or methods are used. Drillholes shall not be drilled  
12 beyond the limits of the cut, and as far as practicable  
13 cuttings and dust shall be cleaned from the holes before  
14 the charge is inserted. Charges of explosives exceeding  
15 one and one-half pounds, but not exceeding three pounds,  
16 shall be used only if drillholes are six feet or more in  
17 depth. Ample warning shall be given before shots are  
18 fired, and care shall be taken to determine that all persons  
19 are in the clear before firing. Men shall be removed from  
20 adjoining places and other places when there is danger  
21 of shots blowing through. No shots shall be fired in any  
22 place known to liberate explosive gas until such place  
23 has been properly examined by a competent person who  
24 is designated by mine management for that purpose, and  
25 no shots shall be fired in any place where gas is detected  
26 with a permissible flame safety lamp until such gas has  
27 been removed by means of ventilation. After firing any  
28 shot, or shots, the person firing the same shall not return

29 to the working face until the smoke has been cleared  
30 away and then he shall make a careful examination of the  
31 working face before leaving the place, or before perform-  
32 ing any other work in the place.

33 Multiple shooting in coal and/or rock is authorized only  
34 under permit issued by the director of the department  
35 of mines. Permission to shoot more than ten shots simul-  
36 taneously may be granted by the director only after con-  
37 sultation with interested persons, and such shooting will  
38 be performed by special methods and under precautions  
39 prescribed by said director. All multiple shooting in bot-  
40 tom or roof rock shall be performed in intake air, except  
41 by special permit from the director of the department of  
42 mines after consultation with interested persons as here-  
43 tofore provided. Multiple blasting of more than ten shots  
44 performed under any permit granted by the director un-  
45 der this section shall be done only on noncoal producing  
46 shifts or idle days except as may be provided as a condi-  
47 tion of the permit granted.

48 The use of regular or short interval delay detonators  
49 may be used for blasting purposes with written permis-

50 sion from the director of the department of mines. The  
51 use of regular delay detonators shall not be used for blast-  
52 ing coal; but may be used for grading above or below coal  
53 seams and during shaft, slope, tunnel work and in faults  
54 or wants. Where short-interval delay detonators are  
55 permitted by said director to be used, the shot firing cir-  
56 cuit must be tested with a blasting galvanometer before  
57 firing, and the leg wires connected in series. No instan-  
58 taneous, regular, or zero-delay detonators are to be fired  
59 in conjunction with short interval delay detonators. The  
60 delay interval between dependent rows must not be less  
61 than twenty-five milliseconds or more than one hundred  
62 milliseconds and the entire series of any one round shall  
63 not provide a delay of more than five hundred milli-  
64 seconds between the first and last shot. The total number  
65 of charged holes to be fired during any one round must not  
66 exceed the limit permitted by said director. Misfires must  
67 be tested with a blasting galvanometer before removing.  
68 Electrical equipment shall not be operated in the face  
69 areas and only work in connection with timbering and  
70 general safety shall be performed while bore holes are

71 being charged. Shots shall be fired promptly after charg-  
72 ing. Mudcaps (adobes) or any other unconfined shots  
73 shall not be permitted in any coal mine. No solid shooting  
74 shall be permitted without written permission of the de-  
75 partment of mines.

76 Blasting cables shall be well insulated and shall be as  
77 long as may be necessary to permit persons authorized  
78 to fire shots to get in a safe place out of the line of fire.  
79 The cable when new shall be at least one hundred twenty-  
80 five feet in length and never less than one hundred feet.  
81 Shooting cables shall be kept away from power wires and  
82 all other sources of electric current, connected to the leg  
83 wires by the person who fires the shot, staggered as to  
84 length or well separated at the detonator leg wires, and  
85 shunted at the battery until ready to connect to the  
86 blasting unit.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

*Thomas Davis, Jr.*  
Chairman Senate Committee

*Mrs. H. H. Withrow*  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect *ninety days from* passage.

*Harold Myers*  
Clerk of the Senate

*C. A. Blankenship*  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

*Howard W. Carson*  
President of the Senate

*Julius W. Singleton Jr.*  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *approved* this the *17<sup>th</sup>*  
day of *March*, 1961.

*Wm. Barr*  
Governor



Filed in Office of the Secretary of State  
of West Virginia *MAR 17 1961*  
JOE F. BURDETT  
SECRETARY OF STATE