WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1961

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 421

(By Mr. Speaker, Mrs. 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)

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

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.—

Only competent and experienced persons designated by mine management shall be permitted to handle explosives and to do blasting. Only electric detonators of proper strength fired with permissible shot firing units shall be used except under special permits as hereinafter provided, 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
to the working face until the smoke has been cleared away and then he shall make a careful examination of the working face before leaving the place, or before performing any other work in the place.

Multiple shooting in coal and/or rock is authorized only under permit issued by the director of the department of mines. Permission to shoot more than ten shots simultaneously may be granted by the director only after consultation with interested persons, and such shooting will be performed by special methods and under precautions prescribed by said director. All multiple shooting in bottom or roof rock shall be performed in intake air, except by special permit from the director of the department of mines after consultation with interested persons as here-tofore provided. Multiple blasting of more than ten shots performed under any permit granted by the director under this section shall be done only on noncoal producing shifts or idle days except as may be provided as a condition of the permit granted.

The use of regular or short interval delay detonators may be used for blasting purposes with written permis-
The use of regular delay detonators shall not be used for blasting coal; but may be used for grading above or below coal seams and during shaft, slope, tunnel work and in faults or wants. Where short-interval delay detonators are permitted by said director to be used, the shot firing circuit must be tested with a blasting galvanometer before firing, and the leg wires connected in series. No instantaneous, regular, or zero-delay detonators are to be fired in conjunction with short interval delay detonators. The delay interval between dependent rows must not be less than twenty-five milliseconds or more than one hundred milliseconds and the entire series of any one round shall not provide a delay of more than five hundred milliseconds between the first and last shot. The total number of charged holes to be fired during any one round must not exceed the limit permitted by said director. Misfires must be tested with a blasting galvanometer before removing. Electrical equipment shall not be operated in the face areas and only work in connection with timbering and general safety shall be performed while bore holes are
being charged. Shots shall be fired promptly after charging. Mudcaps (adobes) or any other unconfined shots shall not be permitted in any coal mine. No solid shooting shall be permitted without written permission of the department of mines.

Blasting cables shall be well insulated and shall be as long as may be necessary to permit persons authorized to fire shots to get in a safe place out of the line of fire. The cable when new shall be at least one hundred twenty-five feet in length and never less than one hundred feet. Shooting cables shall be kept away from power wires and all other sources of electric current, connected to the leg wires by the person who fires the shot, staggered as to length or well separated at the detonator leg wires, and shunted at the battery until ready to connect to the blasting unit.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 17th day of March, 1961.

Governor

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