Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/29/2026 12:25 PM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB825 **Patron:** Hackworth
Bill Title: Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Fund; surface mining pool bond fees.

Bill Summary: Amends various provisions under the Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Fund, including a requirement for the Director of the Department of Energy to assess market conditions no less than biannually to set the rate of reclamation tax based on the (i) most recent price per ton of metallurgical coal exports as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration or (ii) local market conditions provided by the industry representatives currently serving on the Coal Surface Mine Reclamation Fund Advisory Board. The bill also changes the entrance fee for coal surface mining operators participating in the pool fund.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Energy; however, no budget action is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact resulting from this bill can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill provides the Director with discretion to allow participation in the Fund, increases initial payments and balance thresholds for reduced payments, and sets variable reclamation tax rates based on the market price of metallurgic coal. The Department of Energy anticipates that any fiscal impacts resulting from the bill can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

This impact estimate is preliminary and may be updated if new information becomes available.

Other: None.