

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact is indeterminable.

This bill creates a voluntary assigned trust option for reclamation bonds. The bill allows funds within the trusts to be invested by the State Treasurer's Office. It is unknown how many operators would voluntarily participate in the program.

The Department of Environmental Quality indicates the potential need for one (1) additional FTE position to receive applications and deposit and disperse funds from the assigned trust accounts beginning in FY 2023, depending on the number of operators participating in the program. The associated costs with adding one (1) position would be approximately \$79,265 for FY 2023 and \$78,259 each fiscal year thereafter.

The State Treasurer's Office indicates it would intend to invest these funds in relatively short-term U.S. treasuries to preserve 100% of the corpus, especially for coal voluntary assigned trusts. Non-coal voluntary assigned trusts may be invested in somewhat longer-term U.S. treasuries or other safe bond investments but would still have a focus on the preservation of the corpus. Further delineation of the investment plan for these funds would likely result from the promulgation of the rules.

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