

# CHESAPEAKE COAL WORKERS ASSISTANCE ACT

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**Whereas** workers of the coal industry have supplied Chesapeake's energy needs for decades;

**Whereas** workers of the coal industry are losing their jobs and facing economic hardship due to the movement away from unclean energy, and the movement towards green energy sources;

**Whereas** it is the duty of our state government to promote the welfare of our citizens;

*BE IT ENACTED* by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Chesapeake that:

## **Section 1. Short Title**

1. This Act may be cited as the "Chesapeake Coal Workers Assistance Act".

## **Section 2. Definitions**

1. "Coal" shall be defined as bituminous, lignite, anthracite, non agglomerated, or any other type of coal.
2. "Coal Workers" shall be defined as the people mining and working with coal.
3. "FCCWAP" shall refer to The Former and Current Coal Workers Assistance Program
4. "Secretary of Mining" shall refer to the Secretary of Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Trade and Commerce.
5. "Secretary of Health" shall refer to the Secretary of Education, Health, and Human services.
6. "Secretary of Labor" shall refer to the Secretary of Labor and Transportation.
7. "Mine Foreman" shall refer to a person holding a valid certificate of qualification as a foreman duly issued by action of the Board of Coal Mining Examiners.
8. "Chesapeake" shall refer to the Commonwealth of the Chesapeake.
9. "CDoM 001" shall refer to the secreterial directive issued [here](#).

## **Section 3. The Former and Current Coal Workers Assistance Program**

1. The FCCWAP shall mitigate the negative impact that the coal industry has had on the health, and economic well being of its former, and current coal workers, as well as their immediate families.
2. The FCCWAP shall be created by the Chesapeake Department of Health, in coordination with the Chesapeake Department of Mining, the Chesapeake Department of Education, and the Chesapeake Department of Labor.
3. The FCCWAP's goal shall be:
  - a. Provide educational grants to former and current coal workers who seek to further their education in order to pursue new occupations;
  - b. Provide educational grants to the children of former and current coal workers for the purpose of attending trade schools, community colleges, or 4-year colleges;

- c. Provide free medical screenings to former, and current coal workers to check for health risks that are associated with coal mining, such as, but not limited to:
  - i. Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis
  - ii. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
  - iii. Lung Cancer
- d. Provide relocation grants to former and current coal workers seeking to relocate across the State of Chesapeake for educational or economic purposes.
- e. Provide transportation compensation for applicable persons seeking to participate in CDoM Directive 001.

#### **Section 4. Coal Worker Safety Board**

1. There is hereby created the Coal Worker Safety Board, which shall consist of eleven (11) members. Three members shall be the Secretary of Mining, the Secretary of Health, and the Secretary of Labor. As per the other members, who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the Secretary of Mining:
  - a. All must be residents of the Commonwealth of Chesapeake
  - b. One (1) shall originate from the Chesapeake Department of Health
  - c. Two (2) shall originate from the Chesapeake Department of Labor
  - d. Five (5) shall be citizens of Chesapeake who must have any of the following qualifications:
    - i. A former, or current, coal worker with a minimum of five (5) years experience; or
    - ii. An employee in a managerial or supervisory capacity of a coal mine; or
    - iii. An officer or director of a corporation operating a coal mine; or
    - iv. A mine foreman with a minimum of five (5) years experience
    - v. Any other qualifications deemed as acceptable for a member of the Board of Coal Mine Examiners shall also be deemed as acceptable for the Coal Worker Safety Board.
2. The goal of the Coal Worker Safety Board is to ensure that the Coal Workers of Chesapeake is to
  - a. Ensure that the coal workers of Chesapeake are working in fair, safe, and secure conditions
  - b. Ensure that coal workers are able to secure a career for themselves after their work in the coal industry is finished
  - c. Ensure that Chesapeake's coal industry's safety standards are not diminished, nor neglected in the light of new developments in the coal industry.
  - d. Work alongside the Board of Coal Mine Examiners to ensure that coal mines around Chesapeake are secure and up to standards.
3. The Coal Worker Safety Board shall report to the Secretary of Mining every six (6) months.
4. Ten million five hundred thousand dollars (\$10,500,000) shall fund all necessary expenditures which shall include but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Necessary office space

- b. Salaries for members of the Coal Worker Safety Board
  - c. Necessary transportation
- 5. All eleven (11) members of the Coal Worker Safety Board must be appointed by February 7th, 2018.

#### **Section 6. Funding**

- 1. Eighty five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$85,500,000) shall be appropriated from the following Chesapeake departments to fund this bill:
  - a. Thirty million dollars (\$40,500,000) from the Department of Mining
    - i. Ten million five hundred thousand dollars (\$10,500,000) shall be delegated to Section 4.4 of this act.
  - b. Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) from the Department of Health
  - c. Twenty million dollars (\$25,000,000) from the Department of Education
  - d. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the Department of Labor

#### **Section 7. Severability and Enactment**

- 1. Should any part of this act be struck down due to constitutionality, all other parts shall remain in place.
- 2. This act shall go into effect on January 1st, 2018 after passage.

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*This bill was written by [/u/WendellGoldwater](#).*