

# Legislative Analysis



## MINE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 6403 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Beau Matthew LaFave**  
**Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation**  
**Complete to 9-28-22**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 6403 would amend 1911 PA 163 to require an inspector of mines to be elected only in counties that have an active ferrous mineral (iron) mine. Currently, an inspector of mines is required to be elected in any county that has an iron or copper mine located in it, regardless of whether that mine is active. Presently, only one county, Marquette County, has an active ferrous mineral mine, the Tilden Mine.<sup>1</sup>

The bill would limit the duties of the mine inspector to inspecting only active ferrous mineral mines, rather than all mines in the county, and would require inspections take place quarterly, rather than the current requirement of every 60 days. The inspector could conduct inspections more frequently than quarterly. Except when inspecting an idle or abandoned mine that plans to reopen, the inspector's duties would no longer include inspecting idle or abandoned mines. Language relating to active mines, generally, would be amended to reflect that only active ferrous mines would be inspected by the inspector of mines under the bill.

The bill would make the hiring of deputy mine inspectors subject to approval of the board of supervisors of the county where the inspector was elected and would raise fines for violations for mines reopening without first receiving a certificate of safety from the mine inspector. The new fine amounts would be \$1,000 to \$5,000 for each and every offense, up from the current \$100 to \$500.

Finally, the bill would repeal section 2 of the act, which provides for powers and duties of inspectors appointed before the first election of inspectors of mines elected in 1968.

MCL 425.101 et seq.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6403 is unlikely to affect costs or revenues for the Department of Natural Resources or local governments.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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<sup>1</sup> Michigan's Mining Future Committee Final Report, dated October 6, 2021: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Groups/MMFC/Report-2021-Michigans-Mining-Future-Committee-Final-Report.pdf>