

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 962

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE VITALI

Printer's No. 948

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 5 through 7, by striking out all of
2 said lines and inserting

3 Section 1. Section 3225(a)(1) introductory paragraph and
4 (iii) and (2) of Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
5 Statutes, amended July 19, 2022 (P.L.1622, No.96), are amended
6 to read:

7 Amend Bill, page 2, line 7, by inserting a bracket before
8 "amounts" where it occurs the second time

9 Amend Bill, page 2, line 8, by inserting a bracket after
10 "(ii)"

11 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 11 through 30; page 3, lines 1
12 through 14; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and
13 inserting

14 * * *

15 Amend Bill, page 3, line 15, by striking out the bracket
16 before "(iii)"

17 Amend Bill, page 3, line 16, by inserting a bracket before
18 "For"

19 Amend Bill, page 3, line 20, by striking out the bracket
20 before "The"

21 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 21 and 22, by striking out "] In"

22 Amend Bill, page 3, line 27, by striking out the bracket
23 before "(ii)"

1 Amend Bill, page 4, line 1, by inserting a bracket before
2 "(B) "

3 Amend Bill, page 4, line 23, by inserting a bracket after
4 "period."

5 Amend Bill, page 4, lines 24 through 27, by striking out all
6 of said lines and inserting

7 (F) The department shall conduct a study of its
8 experience in implementing this section, report its
9 findings to the Governor and the General Assembly and
10 make recommendations for program amendments within 12
11 months of the effective date of this clause. The
12 report shall contain information relating to:

13 (I) the cost to the Commonwealth to plug
14 orphan and improperly abandoned wells;

15 (II) evaluation of industry trends relating
16 to compliance with plugging and reclamation
17 requirements under existing law;

18 (III) evaluation of the effectiveness of
19 existing enforcement authority in avoiding
20 improper abandonment, including civil penalty
21 authority and forfeiting oil and gas well bonds;

22 (IV) the system for reviewing operators'
23 requests for regulatory inactive status approval
24 and permit transfers and what impact approving
25 those actions under current requirements have on
26 future improper abandonment of active wells;

27 (V) the number of identified orphan and
28 improperly abandoned wells eligible for plugging;

29 (VI) any recommendation on effective
30 alternative financial assurance mechanisms,
31 including, but not limited to, increased bond
32 amounts for conventional oil and gas wells; and

33 (VII) the potential applicability of the
34 mechanisms to oil and gas wells drilled prior to
35 April 18, 1985.