

COAL BOARD

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting. (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)) The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: The Montana Coal Board is a seven-member board created in 1975, along with Montana's Coal Severance Tax. The Coal Board is attached to the Montana Department of Commerce for administrative purposes. The board's purpose is to assist local governmental units that have been required to expand the provision of public services as a consequence of large-scale development of coal mines and coal-using energy complexes or as a consequence of a major decline in coal mining or in the operation of coal-using energy complexes, to assist in the construction and reconstruction of designated portions of highways that serve the area affected by the large-scale development, to support county land planning, and to support public schools throughout the state. Coal board statutes are included in [Title 90, chapter 6, part 2](#).

The board considers applications and awards Coal Board Impact grants to counties, communities, school districts, Indian Tribes, or other governmental units to assist them in adequately providing governmental services or facilities that are needed as a direct consequence of an increase or decrease in coal development or in the consumption of coal by a coal-using energy complex. The board is also responsible to award grants to local government for the purpose of paying part or all of the credit that the local governmental unit is obligated to give a major new industrial facility that has prepaid property taxes.

Legislative Services Division Materials:

[Department of Commerce Agency Overview](#)

Other Materials:

[Coal Impact Area Report](#)

Introduced Legislation

*Chapter number assigned means bill was passed and approved.

2017

[House Bill No. 209](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT TEMPORARILY INCREASING THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX ALLOCATION TO THE COAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING THE INCREASE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2019; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **2015**

2015

[House Bill No. 228](#) – Chapter Number Assigned-- AN ACT TEMPORARILY INCREASING THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX ALLOCATION TO THE COAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING THE INCREASE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2017; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 208](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATING TO THE COAL BOARD AND COAL BOARD GRANTS; REVISING MEMBERSHIP OF THE COAL BOARD; ALLOWING COAL BOARD GRANTS TO BE AWARDED TO CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS EXPERIENCING OR EXPECTING TO EXPERIENCE AN INCREASE IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO DESIGNATE IMPACT AREAS THAT INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS EXPERIENCING OR EXPECTING TO EXPERIENCE AN INCREASE IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL; REDUCING GRANTS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS THAT ARE NOT LOCATED IN AN IMPACT AREA; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-15-1821, 90-6-205, 90-6-206, AND 90-6-207, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.

[House Bill No. 632](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT CREATING AN ANNUAL COAL TRAIN PAYMENT TO COUNTIES; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 204](#) – (S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT REVISING COAL BOARD GRANT RESTRICTIONS BY ALLOWING MONTANA INDIAN TRIBES TO SHARE EQUITABLY IN GRANTS MADE BY THE COAL BOARD; AMENDING SECTION 90-6-209, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE

2013

[House Bill No. 435](#) -- (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS GOVERNING COAL IMPACT GRANT AWARDS; INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION OF COAL THROUGH A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AS A CONDITION FOR FORMING THE BASIS OF AWARDING GRANTS; ADDING TO A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RAILROAD CROSSING QUIET ZONES AND A CERTAIN DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF COAL TRAINS; REQUIRING THAT PREFERENCE FOR GRANT AWARDS BE GIVEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS THAT MEET CERTAIN CONDITIONS; ALLOWING FOR GRANTS UP TO \$200,000 FOR EACH RAILROAD QUIET ZONE CROSSING; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 90-6-205, 90-6-206, AND 90-6-207, AND 90-6-208, MCA.

[Senate Bill No. 236](#) – (S) Veto Override Failed in Legislature -- AN ACT TEMPORARILY INCREASING THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX ALLOCATION TO THE COAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNT; ESTABLISHING THE INCREASE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2019; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2011

[Senate Bill No. 96](#)– (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COAL BOARD; AMENDING SECTION 2-15-1821, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.

2009

[House Bill No. 162](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REMOVING COAL BOARD GRANT LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED MONTANA INDIAN TRIBES; AND AMENDING SECTION 90-6-209, MCA.

[Senate Bill No. 100](#)– Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT INCREASING THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX ALLOCATION TO THE OIL, GAS, AND COAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNT; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES, APPLICABILITY DATES, AND TERMINATION DATES.