

CHAPTER 201.

[H. B. 214.]

AMENDMENT OF COAL MINING CODE.

AN ACT relating to coal mining, and amending sections 7, 36, 46, 47, 107, 200, and repealing section 221 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That section 7 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Section 7. The salary of the mine inspector shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) per annum, and the salary of the deputy mine inspector shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) per annum. The inspector and his deputy shall be allowed their necessary expenses for office maintenance, stenographic services, and for equipment and instruments, as well as for actual and necessary traveling expenses while in the performance of their duties, under the provisions of this act. The auditor of this state is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant on the state treasurer in favor of the mine inspector and his deputy for the amounts due them for their salaries monthly, and also for their expenses, upon proper vouchers, to be paid out of any moneys in the state treasury appropriated for that purpose.

Salaries
and ex-
penses of
inspectors.

The mine inspector and his deputy shall devote their entire time to the duties of their respective offices; they shall have no financial interest, direct or indirect, in any mine under the supervision of the inspection department.

The mine inspector and his deputy shall, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, each take an oath to discharge their duties impartially and with fidelity and to the best of their knowledge and ability.

Duties of
inspectors.

It shall be the duty of the mine inspector and his deputy to enforce the provisions of this act, for the regulation of mines, unless enforcement is otherwise especially provided for.

SEC. 2. That section 36 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Operation
of gas fans.

Section 36. Every main fan at gaseous mines shall be kept in operation continuously, day and night, unless operations are definitely suspended for a period of one week or more: *Provided*, that should it at any time become necessary to stop any fan at any mine, gaseous or non-gaseous, on account of accident to part of the machinery connected therewith, or by reason of any other unavoidable cause, it shall be the duty of the mine foreman, or the assistant mine foreman, in charge, after having first provided for the safety of the persons employed in the mine, to order said fan stopped for necessary repairs.

SEC. 3. That section 46 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Outlets and
openings,
number
required.

Section 46. It shall be unlawful for the owner, operator or superintendent of any mine, or the agent of such owner, operator or superintendent, to employ any person or persons in such mine, or permit any person or persons to be in such mine for the purpose of working therein, unless there are provided and maintained in connection with and leading from such mine, in addition to the hoisting shaft, slope or other place of delivery not less than two openings or outlets to the surface, or one outlet to the surface and one underground passage leading to a contiguous mine; said openings or outlets to be separated from each other and from such hoisting shaft, slope or other place of delivery, by a stratum of not less than fifty (50) feet in thickness, at and through which openings or outlets safe

and ready means of ingress and egress are at all times available by not less than three routes, for any person or persons employed in said mine; and in connection with and leading from each seam or stratum of coal being worked in said mine, and from every lift thereof, not less than two openings or outlets leading directly or indirectly to the surface, and separated by a stratum of not less than fifty (50) feet in thickness; at and through which two openings safe and ready means of ingress and egress are at all times available by not less than two routes for any person or persons employed in said stratum or seam of coal or lift thereof. This section shall not apply to a mine while being worked for the purpose of making communication between said outlets, or to open a seam or stratum of coal, or new lift thereof, so long as not more than twenty (20) persons are employed at any time in such part of a mine, or new lift of a mine; neither shall it apply to any mine or part of a mine in which any outlet has been rendered unavailable by reason of the final robbing of pillars, previous to abandonment, so long as not more than twenty (20) persons are employed in such mine or any part of such mine at one time.

This section shall apply only to mines or parts of mines which shall be developed or in which development shall be started after this act shall go into effect, but it shall not be construed to permit any openings or outlets now in use for the safety of men to be abandoned unless other such openings are substituted therefor.

Application
of act.

SEC. 4. That section 47 of Chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Section 47. It shall be unlawful for the owner, operator or superintendent of any mine to loosen or remove, or cause or permit to be loosened or re-

Distances
allowed
for coal re-
moval.

moved from its original position, any coal within a distance of two hundred and fifty (250) feet on either side of any hoisting slope, or within a distance of fifty (50) feet on either side of any permanent airway, or escapeway, or within twenty-five (25) feet of any level or gangway, or any parallel airway to any level or gangway, except for the purpose of driving air and escapeways, crosscuts and such other passages as may be necessary for the proper operation of the mine: *Provided*, that if the inspector shall deem it safe to permit coal to be loosened or removed within a distance nearer than two hundred and fifty (250) feet from any hoisting slope he may grant permission to the operator to remove such coal within a distance of not less than one hundred and fifty (150) feet of such hoisting slope, by issuing a written permit therefor. This section shall not be construed to prevent the drawing of pillars previous to the final abandonment of the mine.

SEC. 5. That section 107 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Section 107. When operations are temporarily suspended in a mine, the mine foreman shall see that a danger sign is placed across the mine entrance, which sign shall be sufficient warning for persons not to enter the mine. If the circulation of air through the mine be stopped, each entrance to said mine shall be fenced off in such manner as will ordinarily prevent persons from entering said mine, and a danger sign shall be displayed upon said fence at each entrance. The mine foreman shall see that all danger signs used at the mine are in good condition, and if they become defective he shall cause same to be repaired, or notify the superintendent.

In case of accident to a ventilating fan or its machinery whereby the ventilation in a mine is, or is about to be seriously interrupted, the mine foreman

Posting
danger
signs.

Interrupted
ventilation.

shall order the men to withdraw immediately from the mine, and he shall not allow them to return to their work until the ventilation has been restored and the mine has been thoroughly examined by him, or by an assistant mine foreman or fire boss, and reported safe.

In case the operation of the ventilating fan is stopped at a gaseous mine because of the suspension of the operations in the mine, the mine foreman shall not allow the men employed therein to enter the mine until the ventilation has been restored by the operation of the fan for at least twelve hours and the mine has been thoroughly examined by him, or by an assistant mine foreman or fire boss, and reported safe.

SEC. 6. That section 200 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 be amended to read as follows:

Copies of these rules shall be printed in English, by the operator, and each workman in and around the mine shall procure a copy. If he cannot read the English language, he must at his own expense, procure an interpreter to correctly interpret the rules to him. The workman will pay the operator twenty-five cents (25c) per copy for the rules, and if he returns the same to the operator in legible condition, the amount so paid by him shall be returned.

Rules to be
printed in
English.

SEC. 7. [Vetoed.]

Passed the House, February 26, 1919.

Passed the Senate, March 11, 1919.

Approved by the Governor, except Section 7, which was vetoed, March 22, 1919.