

CHAPTER 51.

[H. B. 225.]

COAL MINES.

AN ACT relating to coal mining, providing qualifications for hoist engineers, and amending sections 69 and 88 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917.

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

SECTION 1. That section 69 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 (section 8704 of Remington's Revised Statutes; section 3896 of Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

Amends  
§ 8704 Rem.  
Rev. Stat.;  
§ 3896 P. C.:

Section 69. An engineer placed in charge of the hoisting engine, where men are being hoisted or lowered, must be a sober, competent person not less than twenty-one (21) years of age, and in good physical and mental condition for such work; and no person shall be permitted to handle or operate any such hoist until his health has been certified by a reputable physician and his competency determined and certified by the state mining board upon such examination as it may prescribe.

Competency  
of hoisting  
engineer.

SEC. 2. That section 88 of chapter 36 of the Laws of 1917 (section 8723 of Remington's Revised Statutes; section 3915 of Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

Section 88. Whenever by reason of any explosion or any other accident in or about any coal mine, whereby loss of life or serious injury has occurred, or is thought to have occurred, it shall be the duty of the person having charge of the mine to give notice thereof to the mine inspector by telephone or telegraph, and if any person is killed thereby, to the coroner of the county, who shall give due notice to the mine inspector if an inquest is to be held. In case of any major or fatal accident, the resident

Accidents  
and  
explosions.

Coroner.

district officers of the miners' organization shall be notified by telephone or telegraph at the same time the mine inspector is notified, and shall have the privilege of appearing at all investigations held to determine the cause of such accident, and to recommend safety measures for the prevention of accidents. If the coroner shall determine to hold an inquest, the mine inspector shall be allowed to testify and offer such testimony as he shall deem necessary to thoroughly inform the said inquest of the cause of death, and the said inspector shall have authority at any time to appear before such coroner and jury and question or cross-question any witness, and in choosing a jury for the purpose of holding such inquest it shall be the duty of the coroner to impanel a jury, no one of whom shall be directly or indirectly interested. It shall be the duty of the mine inspector upon being notified as herein provided, to immediately repair to the scene of the accident and make such suggestions as may appear necessary to secure the safety of the men, and if the results of the explosion or accident do not require an investigation by the coroner, he shall proceed to investigate and ascertain the cause of the explosion or accident, and make a record thereof, which he shall file as provided for, and to enable him to make the investigation he shall have the power to compel the attendance of persons to testify, and administer oaths or affirmations. The cost of such investigation shall be paid by the county in which the accident occurred, in the same manner as costs of inquests held by coroners or justices of the peace are paid, and copies of evidence taken at inquests shall be furnished the mine inspector.

Mine  
inspector.

Passed the House March 7, 1939.

Passed the Senate March 6, 1939.

Approved by the Governor March 10, 1939.