

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESB 6635

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As Passed Senate, February 13, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to application fees for mines used primarily for public works projects in counties with 1993 populations of less than twenty thousand.

**Brief Description:** Concerning application permits for small public works projects mines.

**Sponsors:** Senators Morton and Drew.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources: 1/30/96, 2/1/96 [DP].  
Passed Senate, 2/13/96, 48-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; A. Anderson, Haugen, Morton, Oke, Owen, Snyder, Strannigan and Swecker.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** Small counties operating portable rock crushers and small mining sites are concerned that the fees established by the Department of Natural Resources for permits and reclamation plans are too great a cost.

**Summary of Bill:** Mining fees for public works projects with less than seven acres of disturbed area per mine are waived when they are primarily used for a public works project if the mines are owned and primarily operated by counties with a 1993 population of less than 20,000 persons.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 25, 1996.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The permit fees for small counties are costing up to \$3,500 per site and some counties have 50-60 sites. This is a statewide problem and it needs to be addressed in the interim for all counties.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Art Stearns, Dept. of Natural Resources (pro).