

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 56<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 370</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>ENGR</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. West</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/6/2017</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Department of Mines: FY 18: \$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

SB 370 provides rules and procedures for the use of explosives in mining operations within the Coal Mining Reclamation Act, in Title 45, Chapter 8 – Mine Reclamation. These rules and procedures mirror those currently found in statute under Title 45, Chapter 11 – Surface Mine Safety Standards. Persons who use explosives, blasting agents or detonators must be certified by the Oklahoma Mining Commission. The measure also provides definitions for, and differentiates between, a *loaded hole* and a *charged hole* in the context of blasting operations for mining purposes.

Prepared By: Sean Webster

**Fiscal Analysis**

SB 370, per the Oklahoma Department of Mines (ODM), has \$0 fiscal or revenue considerations to the state. This bill allows for the possibility of "sleeping holes" when using electronic detonation in coal mining only; and at the approval of the Oklahoma Department of Mines.

The measure would allow coal operators to use a modern method of mining that the law, as it currently reads, would not allow. SB 370 may make blasting cheaper on the whole for coal mining operations. Per the agency, would certainly make blasting operations more streamlined. The measure should not affect the number of blasters needed and no jobs would be lost. The bill can be considered a "modernization" bill. ODM says many of the specifics of Title 45 were not written in a way that accommodates modern technology. The agency does not believe passage of the bill will require any new regulations. If a coal mining company opts to use "sleeping holes" they will have to put it into a blasting plan in their permit application and have it approved by ODM. The agency would consider both environmental and safety operational aspects of a blasting proposal plan. The agency currently does have the appropriate personnel on staff to meet requirements of the measure.

Prepared By: Jenny Mobley

**Other Considerations**

None.