

HR 5481

MINERS for Mining Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: May 25, 2006

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. (Jul 14, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/5481>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Norwood, Charles W. [R-GA-9]

Party: Republican • **State:** GA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 14, 2006
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 14, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 S 2803	Related bill	Dec 6, 2006: By Senator Enzi from Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions filed written report. Report No. 109-365.

Modernizing and Improving the National Emergency Response System for Mining Act or the MINERS for Mining Act - Amends the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to require coal mine operators to: (1) improve accident preparedness and response at each mine; and (2) adopt and update an accident response plan for evacuations and for maintenance of individuals trapped underground. Requires such a plan to provide for: (1) redundant means and local coordination of communication; (2) post-accident location of underground personnel; (3) emergency air supplies; (4) self-rescuer caches; (5) escapeways and flame-resistant directional lifelines; (6) emergency training; and (7) within three years, post accident wireless communication between underground and the surface and electronic tracking of trapped persons.

Limits the liability of persons who carry out mine accident rescue or recovery operations.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to require: (1) the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to establish and update criteria to certify the qualifications of mine rescue teams; and (2) operators to have one employee knowledgeable in emergency response on each shift and two certified mine rescue teams available at each mine within one hour.

Requires notification of a mine accident to be provided to the Secretary by the operator within 15 minutes of knowledge of a death or potentially fatal injury.

Authorizes the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to research and develop technology for the improvement of the safety and health of miners. Amends the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to establish within NIOSH an Office of Mine Safety and Health to enhance the development of new mine safety technology and applications and to expedite the commercial availability and implementation of such technology. Authorizes the Director of NIOSH to: (1) award competitive grants and contracts; and (2) establish an interagency working group to share technology, research, and developments concerning mine safety and accident response.

Requires the Secretary to require: (1) the temporary assignment of a department official as a liaison with the families of victims of mine tragedies involving multiple deaths; and (2) MSHA to be responsive to family requests for information and to serve as the primary communicator.

Prescribes penalties for operator violations of health or safety standards or orders.

Requires the Secretary to research, and report to Congress on, the sealing of abandoned mine areas.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) require the operator of each mine to conduct mandatory, random substance abuse testing of mine employees; and (2) create a registry of those found to have tested positive.

Provides for the issuance and enforcement of subpoenas.

Requires the Secretary of Education to provide scholarships to individuals to increase the skilled workforce for mine operators, mine safety inspectors, and other MSHA personnel.

Requires NIOSH to: (1) provide for research about various refuge alternatives in mines; and (2) survey international mining practices concerning incident planning.

Requires the Secretary of Labor to award competitive grants for funding education and training programs to better identify and prevent unsafe working conditions in and around mines.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 14, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
- **Jul 14, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.
- **May 25, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2006:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.