

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator Standridge

A Bill

SENATE BILL 620

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO EXEMPT CRYSTAL QUARTZ MINING ON PRIVATE
9 PROPERTY FROM THE ARKANSAS OPEN-CUT RECLAMATION ACT;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO EXEMPT CRYSTAL QUARTZ MINING ON
15 PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM THE ARKANSAS OPEN-
16 CUT RECLAMATION ACT.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 15-57-303(8), concerning definitions for
22 the Arkansas Open-Cut Land Reclamation Act, is amended to add an additional
23 subdivision to read as follows:

24 (8)(A) "Open-cut mining" means the surface extraction of clay,
25 bauxite, sand, gravel, soil, shale or other materials for commercial
26 purposes~~+~~.

27 (B) "Open-cut mining" does not include quartz crystal
28 mined on private property by the owner of the private property;

30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 15-57-320, concerning exemptions from the
31 Arkansas Open-Cut Land Reclamation Act, is amended to add an additional
32 subsection to read as follows:

33 (h) The permitting provisions of this subchapter do not apply to
34 quartz crystal mined on private property by the owner of the property.

36 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 57, Subchapter 2, is



1 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

2 15-57-204. Quartz crystal mined on private property

3 (a) A private property owner that mines quartz crystal on the private
4 property shall remove topsoil and spoil and store it on the mining site
5 separately for future reclamation needs.

6 (b) Upon completion of mining on private property, the private
7 property owner shall:

8 (1) Leave the mining site in a condition that safeguards the
9 mining site from trespass if any highwalls are left on the mining site; and

10 (2)(A) Whenever possible:

11 (i) Backfill spoil into the pits;

12 (ii) Cover the mining site with topsoil; and

13 (iii) Revegetate the mining site to prevent
14 pollution of the waters of Arkansas.

15 (B) If the owner does not place spoil back into the final
16 cut, the owner shall:

17 (i) Grade the spoil so that no slope is steeper than
18 one foot (1') vertical to three feet (3') horizontal; and

19 (ii) Respread and revegetate the topsoil to prevent
20 pollution of the waters of Arkansas.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36