

union school district shall present a petition to the county commissioners of the county where such district is located, signed by at least a majority of the members of the board of school directors of each of said districts, or any elector of either district may present a petition to the county commissioners, signed by at least twenty-five per centum (25%) of the registered electors of each district. The county commissioners shall take no action upon such petitions until they have been approved in writing by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. After such petitions have been approved and filed, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to submit to the electors of the respective districts desiring to form a union school district, at the next general or municipal election, a question whether or not such school districts shall be united into a union school district. Such question shall be submitted in the form and manner provided by the general election laws of this Commonwealth for the submission of similar questions.

APPROVED—The 19th day of August, A. D. 1953.

JOHN S. FINE

No. 327

AN ACT

To further amend section 5 of the act, approved the thirty-first day of May, one thousand nine hundred forty-five (Pamphlet Laws 1198), entitled "An act providing for the conservation and improvement of land affected in connection with the mining of bituminous coal by the open pit mining method; regulating such mining; and providing penalties," by further regulating backfilling and operation reports.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 5 of the act, approved the thirty-first day of May, one thousand nine hundred forty-five (Pamphlet Laws 1198), entitled "An act providing for the conservation and improvement of land affected in connection with the mining of bituminous coal by the open pit mining method; regulating such mining; and providing penalties," as amended by the act, approved the twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred forty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 1730), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 5. *Operation Report and Backfilling.*—Within thirty (30) days after starting the removal of overburden at each operation for the removal of coal by open pit mining, the operator shall file an operation report with the Department of Mines on a form to be prescribed

"Bituminous Coal Open Pit Mining Conservation Act."

Section 5, act of May 31, 1945, P. L. 1198, as amended by act of May 23, 1949, P. L. 1730, further amended.

and furnished by the secretary, giving the following information: (a) Name or number of the operation; (b) Location of the operation as to county and township and with reference to the nearest public road; (c) A description of the tract or tracts by metes and bounds; and (d) The name and address of the landowner or his duly authorized representative.

The operator shall backfill the operation made by the open pit mining operation to a distance of fifteen (15) feet beyond the boundary line of the right of way of any public highway. The backfilling shall be done in such a manner as to insure lateral support of a public highway and to provide a slope having an angle not exceeding forty (40) degrees. The Department of Mines may specify the time within which it shall be completed in order to protect the public safety, and may require such backfilling to be done in part before the completion of the open pit mining operation.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit the relocation of any public road in the manner provided by law.

APPROVED—The 19th day of August, A. D. 1953.

JOHN S. FINE

No. 328

AN ACT

To further amend section 1 of the act, approved the twenty-fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred forty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 971), entitled "An act relating to the annual salaries and compensation of certain county officers of counties of the eighth class," by increasing the annual salaries of county commissioners in certain counties of the eighth class.

Eighth class
counties.

Section 1, act of
June 25, 1947,
P. L. 971, as
amended by act
of October 11,
1951, P. L. 1706,
further amended.

Salaries of
county officers.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of the act, approved the twenty-fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred forty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 971), entitled "An act relating to the annual salaries and compensation of certain county officers of counties of the eighth class," as amended by the act, approved the eleventh day of October, one thousand nine hundred fifty-one (Pamphlet Laws 1706), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 1. The annual salaries of the following county officers of counties of the eighth class shall be as follows:

(a) The sheriff, in counties having a population of less than twelve thousand (12,000), two thousand two hundred dollars (\$2,200); and in counties having a population of twelve thousand (12,000) and more, but less than