

No. 462

AN ACT

Amending the act of June nine, one thousand nine hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws 756), entitled "An act to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the bituminous coal-mines of Pennsylvania and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith," changing qualification requirements of candidates for the office of mine inspector, and changing provisions concerning reappointment and certification of inspectors.

Bituminous coal mines.

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

Sections 3 and 4, Article XIX., act of June 9, 1911, P. L. 756, amended August 19, 1953, P. L. 1128, further amended.

Section 1. Sections three and four of Article XIX., act of June nine, one thousand nine hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws 756), entitled "An act to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the bituminous coal-mines of Pennsylvania and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith," amended August nineteen, one thousand nine hundred fifty-three (Pamphlet Laws 1128), are amended to read:

Qualifications of candidates to office of bituminous mine inspector.

Section 3. The qualifications of candidates for the office of bituminous mine inspector shall be certified under oath to the Examining Board and shall be as follows:

The candidates shall be citizens of Pennsylvania, of temperate habits, of good repute as men of personal integrity, in good physical condition, and shall be between the ages of thirty and [fifty years] *fifty-five years*. *Any inspector appointed under the provisions of the act of May fifteen, one thousand eight hundred ninety-three (Pamphlet Laws 52), entitled "An act relating to bituminous coal mines, and providing for the lives, health, safety and welfare of persons employed therein," or under the provisions of this act shall be eligible for reappointment without further examination even if beyond fifty-five years of age if he served as an inspector for a period of four or more years.* The candidates shall have a knowledge of the different systems of working coal seams, and shall have had at least ten years' practical experience in bituminous mines, five years of which, immediately preceding their examination, shall have been in bituminous mines of this Commonwealth, and shall also have had practical experience with explosive gas and other dangerous gases found in coal mines; and upon examination, shall give evidence of such theoretical as well as practical knowledge and general intelligence respecting mines and mining, and the working and ventilation of mines, as will satisfy the Examining Board

of their capability and fitness for the duties imposed upon inspectors of mines by the provisions of this act: Provided, however, That any candidate who has honorably served in the armed forces of the United States or an ally thereof shall be eligible to take such examination, where the required continuity of practical experience has been interrupted by such military service.

Proviso.

Section 4. The principal examination shall be in writing, and each candidate shall also undergo an oral examination pertaining to explosive gas, safety lamps, methods of ventilation, and mine management, and such other matters as the Examining Board shall deem relevant. The questions and answers thereto in the oral examination shall be reported verbatim by an expert stenographer, and typewritten, fully to assist the board in the work of rating the qualifications of the candidates. Any candidate who shall make a general average of at least ninety per centum shall be deemed successful. The manuscripts and other papers of all applicants in the principal examination, together with the tally sheets and the correct solution of each question as prepared by the Examining Board, and also the stenographer's report of the oral examination, shall be filed in the Department of Mines. The names and percentages of all successful candidates who are properly qualified, under the provisions of this article, to fill the office of bituminous mine inspector, shall be certified to the Governor and the Department of Mines. A certificate of qualification prepared by the Secretary of Mines shall be issued to each successful candidate. A certificate so issued shall remain in force for [only] a period of four years from the date of the examination, *unless the holder thereof has received an appointment as bituminous mine inspector and has served as such for a period of four years in which case the certificate shall become permanent*: Provided, That a certificate of qualification of a person honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States or an ally thereof shall not expire until the first examination occurring more than six months following his release from military service.

Examinations.

Issuance of certificate of qualification to successful candidates.

Expiration of certificates.

Proviso.

The Examining Board shall, after the examination, furnish to any candidate, on request, a copy of all questions (oral and written) given at the examination, marked "solved right," "imperfect," or "wrong," as the case may be.

APPROVED—The 4th day of April, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER