

No. 1978-15

AN ACT

HB 1691

Amending the act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.659, No.339), entitled "An act relating to bituminous coal mines; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto; providing 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; prescribing powers and duties in connection therewith; prescribing penalties; and repealing existing laws," changing eligibility requirements for mine inspectors and electrical inspectors; allowing the employment of women; and prohibiting the employment of any person under eighteen years of age.

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

Section 1. Sections 107, 108 and 299.1, act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.659, No.339), known as the "Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Act," are amended to read:

Section 107. Eligibility for Appointment as a Bituminous Coal Mine Inspector.—The qualifications for certification of a candidate for the office of mine inspector shall be as follows: The candidate shall be a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, of temperate habits, of good repute as a **[man] person** of personal integrity, in good physical condition, **[shall be between the ages of thirty and fifty-five years,]** shall have successfully passed the examination for mine inspector provided in section 109 hereof, shall have had at least ten years' practical experience in bituminous coal mines, five years of which, immediately preceding his examination, shall have been in bituminous coal mines of this Commonwealth, and shall have had practical experience with explosive gas and other dangerous gases found in coal mines: 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.

Section 108. Eligibility for Appointment as an Electrical Inspector.—The qualifications for certification of a candidate for the office of electrical inspector shall be as follows: The candidate shall be a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **[shall be between the ages of thirty and fifty-five years,]** of temperate habits, of good repute as a **[man] person** of personal integrity, in good physical condition, shall have had five years' experience in gassy mines of this Commonwealth as a mine electrician or an electrical engineer, and shall have successfully passed the examination for electrical inspectors provided in section 109 of this article: 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.

Section 299.1. Employment of **[Boys and Females.—(a)] *Persons Under Eighteen Years of Age.—(a)*** No **[boy] person** under the age of eighteen years**[, and no woman or girl of any age,]** shall be employed or permitted to be inside any bituminous coal mine for the purpose of employment therein, or be employed or permitted to be in or about the outside structures or workings of a bituminous coal mine for the purpose of employment.

(b) This prohibition shall not affect the employment of a **[boy or female] person**, of suitable age, in an office or in the performance of clerical work, at a bituminous coal mine.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 12th day of April, A. D. 1978.

MILTON J. SHAPP