

HB 686 -- Mining Permits

Sponsor: Richardson

Currently, the Land Reclamation Commission within the Department of Natural Resources may deny a surface mining permit if it finds in any hearing, based on competent and substantial scientific evidence, that the interested party's health, safety, or livelihood would be unduly impaired by issuance of the permit. This bill specifies that it must be in a public hearing and removes the provision placing the burden of proof on the permit applicant.