

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MODE OF SCREENING AND PAYING FOR THE MINING OF COAL AND TO PREVENT DISPUTES AMONG COAL MINERS AND COAL OPERATORS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That it shall be lawful for any company or person owning or operating any coal mine in this State to establish such facilities plans, modes, and systems of screening coal as the said owner or operator may deem best for his own or their own interests.

SEC. 2. The operator or owner of any coal mine after establishing the plan, size and condition of screens shall not change the same in size, form or condition without giving ninety days notice to the miners employed in such mines.

SEC. 3. The owners or operators of coal mines in this State shall pay a reasonable sum per bushel for mining merchantable lump coal, such as does not pass through the screens adopted for such mine, and in the gross receipts from the sale of pea coal, nut coal or slack coal emanating from such mine, the owners of such mine and those persons employed in the same shall share as follows: To the owners sixty per cent of the gross receipts of such sales and to the miners forty per cent of the gross receipts of such sales.

SEC. 4. The owner or operator shall report on the first of each month the gross sale of pea coal, nut coal or slack coal, and the miners' forty per cent. of such sales shall be apportioned among the miners employed according to the tons of lump coal mined by each person employed in said mine during said month. No fractions of tons shall be considered in settlements.

SEC. 5. Any five miners employed in any one mine believing that they are being wronged by false reports being made of the yield of pea coal, nut coal or slack coal sold during any one month may demand that the scale books, general books and the affairs of their employers be inspected by the State Mine Inspector or the Secretary of the State Labor Bureau.

SEC 6. That all merchantable coal mined in this State under contracts for payment by the bushel, ton or other quantity therefor shall be weighed, and the miner or other employe mining such coal shall be credited with the full weight thereof, and eighty pounds of such merchantable coal shall constitute a bushel, and two thousand pounds shall constitute a ton; and the weight of such coal shall be the basis upon which the wages of persons

6 mining said coal shall be computed, and also the basis of division of the interest of ope-
7 rators and miners in the pea coal, nut coal and slack coal, as provided for in this act. All
8 coal sold without screening, or sold as lump coal, must be reckoned as lump coal in settle-
9 ment between miners and mine operators.

SEC. 7 Any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this act ; any coal com-
2 pany or person controlling any coal mine refusing to account to the miners in their employ
3 for the sale of pea coal, nut coal or slack coal, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor,
4 and shall, upon conviction for each offense, be punished by a fine of not less than two hun-
5 dred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not
6 to exceed six months, or by both.