

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 1667  
By: Averitt  
Energy Resources  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law sets the maximum penalty fee for a violation of a mining permit at \$5,000. The Railroad Commission of Texas recommends increasing the maximum penalty for a violation of the Texas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act to reflect the impact of inflation since the fee was established in the 1970s.

This bill increases the maximum penalty from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a violation of coal mining and reclamation operations or underground mining operations permit.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

This bill amends the Natural Resources Code, so that a penalty for each violation under this chapter may not exceed \$10,000. This bill strikes the \$5,000 penalty amount as is set in current law. This bill clarifies that this Act does not apply to violations which occurred prior to the effective date of this Act.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2007.