1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 758

December 19, 1995 – Introduced by Representatives Black, Lorge, Ryba, Baumgart, Plache, Bock, Boyle, R. Young, Robson, La Fave, Hanson, Baldwin, Wirch, Kreuser, Hasenohrl, Coggs, Notestein and Cullen, cosponsored by Senators Burke, Decker, Clausing, Chvala, Risser and Wineke. Referred to Committee on Environment and Utilities.

- AN ACT *to amend* 144.85 (5) (a) 1. (intro.); and *to create* 144.851 of the statutes;

 relating to: issuance of metallic mining permits for the mining of sulfide ore
 - bodies.

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Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits mining for metallic minerals without a mining permit issued by the department of natural resources (DNR). This bill prohibits DNR from issuing a metallic mining permit for the mining of a sulfide ore body until DNR determines that a mine has operated in a sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water and that a mine that operated in a sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada has been closed for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- **SECTION 1.** 144.85 (5) (a) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
- 5 144.85 **(5)** (a) 1. (intro.) Except <u>as provided in par. (b) and s. 144.851 and except</u>
- 6 with respect to property specified in s. 16.21 (11), within 90 days of the completion
- of the public hearing record, the department shall issue the mining permit if it finds:
 - **Section 2.** 144.851 of the statutes is created to read:

144.851	Moratorium	on issuance	of permits for	mining of s	ulfide ore
bodies.					

- (1) In this section, "sulfide ore body" means a mineral deposit in which metals are mixed with sulfide minerals.
- (2) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection [revisor inserts date], the department may not issue a permit under s. 144.85 for the mining of a sulfide ore body until all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (a) The department determines, based on information provided by an applicant for a permit under s. 144.85, that a mining operation has operated in a sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water from acid drainage at the tailings site or at the mine site or from the release of heavy metals.
- (b) The department determines, based on information provided by an applicant for a permit under s. 144.85, that a mining operation that operated in a sulfide ore body in the United States or Canada has been closed for at least 10 years without polluting groundwater or surface water from acid drainage at the tailings site or at the mine site or from the release of heavy metals.
- (3) This section applies without regard to the date of submission of the permit application.

(END)