

1 **H. B. 4361**

2
3 (By Delegates Manypenny, Doyle, Walker, Shaver,
4 Rowan, Sigler and Fleischauer)

5
6 [Introduced January 31, 2012; referred to the

7 Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

8 **FISCAL**
NOTE

9
10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §22-6A-21a, relating
12 to the creation of a publicly available database that
13 documents and maintains specific, up to date information on
14 all horizontally drilled wells in the state.

15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

16 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
17 by adding thereto a new section, designated §22-6A-21a, to read as
18 follows:

19 **ARTICLE 6A. NATURAL GAS HORIZONTAL WELL CONTROL ACT.**

20 **§22-6A-21a. Public database of horizontally drilled wells;**
21 **contents and accessibility.**

22 (a) For all permits for horizontally drilled wells that exist
23 on or following the effective date of this statute, the secretary
24 shall forward all plats and data required by §22-6-12, as modified
25 pursuant to §22-6-15, if modified, to the United States Geological

1 Survey and to the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.
2 Further, the secretary shall forward any additional modifications
3 or deviations made to plats and data following the initial permit,
4 as soon as modifications are approved or agreed upon or variances
5 granted, to the United States Geological Survey and to the West
6 Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.

7 (b) In addition to the information required under subsection
8 (a) of this section, the secretary shall require from the well
9 operator and forward to the United States Geological Survey and to
10 the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey for all permits
11 for horizontally drilled wells that exist on or following the
12 effective date of this statute, the following:

13 (1) The location of all wells, abandoned or otherwise located
14 within five hundred feet of any well or lateral;

15 (2) Where available, the casing records of all such wells;

16 (3) Where available, the drilling log of all such wells;

17 (4) The maximum pressure to be introduced;

18 (5) The geologic formation into which such liquid or pressure
19 is to be introduced;

20 (6) A general description of the liquids to be introduced;

21 (7) The location of all water-bearing horizons above and below
22 the geological formation into which such pressure, liquid or waste
23 is to be introduced; and

24 (8) Such other information as the secretary by rule may

1 require.

2 (c) In the event a completed well deviates from the location
3 as indicated on a plat or on a plat as modified but is not a
4 deviation which requires approval of the secretary, the owner or
5 operator of the well shall notify the secretary of this deviation
6 and the precise location of the completed well. The secretary
7 shall forward this information to the United States Geological
8 Survey and to the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey in
9 addition to updating the database on the West Virginia Department
10 of Environmental Protection's website.

11 (d) The secretary shall maintain a database on the West
12 Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's website and
13 available upon request that contains all information made available
14 to the United States Geological Survey and the West Virginia
15 Geological Survey pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a publicly accessible database of information relevant to all horizontally drilled wells.

§22-6A-21a is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.