

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Blue Bill # 14						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 1						
Authors: Derris Stanland	Action on the Bill						
School: Lexington Christian Academy							
City: Lexington							
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">House</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
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1 An act to A Bill to Lower the Maximum Contaminant Level for Selenium in Kentucky's Water and Require Coal
2 Mines to Comply and Assist With Efforts

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4 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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6 Section 1: Selenium is one of several heavy metals that if not treated properly, can contaminate natural
7 water. Selenium in higher concentrations can be toxic to organisms, especially aquatic life, and can be linked
8 to behavioral changes, disease and death in small freshwater animals and surrounding wildlife. Through
9 bioaccumulation and the food chain, humans can eventually intake selenium and other heavy metals, and
10 these have been linked to fingernail loss, circulation problems, stomach and liver maladies, and even cancer.

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12 Section 2: Several abandoned or active coal mines and other types of mines exist in both eastern and
13 western Kentucky. Even though Kentucky complies with the EPA's 1974 regulations, the state currently has
14 a Clean Water Act in place that has no strict regulations on the allowable concentration of selenium. State
15 legislators are considering loosening the allowed selenium concentration to benefit the coal and energy
16 industries. However, water quality tests and voluntary scientific information in the toxicity of selenium
17 suggests that the state should individually tighten its restrictions on selenium. High concentrations of
18 selenium have been found in waterways near mines, and even in concentrations within state standards, are
19 still very toxic to organisms.

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21 Section 3: Coal companies in conjunction with the state must organize volunteer and paid persons to test
22 waterways affected by Kentucky's mines, and submit test data for selenium to the Kentucky Geological
23 Survey, the Kentucky Division of Water, and any other necessary bodies. Coal companies will be required to
24 pay for these tests.

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26 Section 4: If selenium levels concentrations are found to be high enough to endanger fish and wildlife
27 species, even if they are in compliance with current state standards, coal companies should be required to
28 construct and find treatment operations within three years of the determined violation.

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30 Section 5: This bill will go into effect 90 days after passage.