

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9556

To amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to provide adequate benefits for miners suffering from black lung disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2026

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. MCGARVEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to provide adequate benefits for miners suffering from black lung disease, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Support Our Miners
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Tens of thousands of coal miners across the
9 country are disabled by, or have died from, black

1 lung disease. Such miners and their families rely on
2 black lung benefits as provided under section 412 of
3 the Black Lung Benefits Act (30 U.S.C. 922) to pay
4 for their healthcare and to provide monthly com-
5 pensation.

6 (2) When section 412 of the Black Lung Bene-
7 fits Act (30 U.S.C. 922) was enacted in 1969, a
8 miner received about \$144.50 per month to help
9 support their cost of living, equating to about
10 \$1,252.53 annually in today's currency, adjusting
11 for inflation.

12 (3) The benefit rate, as established in 1969,
13 has not kept up with the cost of living. Today, min-
14 ers receive nearly 40 percent less than the value of
15 the original amount adjusting for inflation.

16 **SEC. 3. ADEQUATE BENEFITS FOR MINERS.**

17 Section 412(a) of the Black Lung Benefits Act (30
18 U.S.C. 922(a)(1)) is amended in the first paragraph—

19 (1) by striking “during the disability” and in-
20 serting “during the disability.”;

21 (2) by striking “at a rate” and inserting the
22 following:

23 “(A) For any calendar year preceding
24 2026, at a rate”; and

25 (3) by striking “step 1.” and inserting “step 1.

“(B) For calendar year 2026, for each month after the date of enactment of the Support Our Miners Act for which benefits are payable to such miner, at a monthly pay rate equal to the quotient of—

“(i) \$15,030, and

“(ii) 12.

“(C) For calendar year 2027 and each succeeding calendar year—

“(i) at an annual rate equal to the product of—

“(I)(aa) for calendar 2027, \$15,030; or

“(bb) for a calendar year after calendar year 2027, the annual rate determined under this subparagraph for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the determination is being made under this subparagraph, and

“(II) the greater of one or the ratio of—

“(aa) the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, as pub-

1 lished by the Bureau of Labor
2 Statistics, for the calendar year
3 immediately preceding the cal-
4 endar year for which the deter-
5 mination is being made under
6 this subparagraph; to

7 “(bb) such Consumer Price
8 Index for the second calendar
9 year preceding the calendar year
10 for which the determination is
11 being made under this subpara-
12 graph; and

13 “(ii) at a monthly rate equal to the
14 quotient of—

15 “(I) the annual rate determined
16 under clause (i) for the calendar year
17 for which the determination is being
18 made under this subparagraph; and

19 “(II) 12.”.

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