

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 335

AN ACT

To require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “South Florida Clean
3 Coastal Waters Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND**
5 **HYPOXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and
7 Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law
8 105–383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609
10 as sections 606 through 610, respectively; and

11 (2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

12 **“SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND**
13 **HYPOXIA.**

14 “(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term
15 ‘South Florida’ means—

16 “(1) all lands and waters within the administra-
17 tive boundaries of the South Florida Water Manage-
18 ment District;

19 “(2) regional coastal waters, including Biscayne
20 Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Florida Bay, and
21 Indian River Lagoon; and

22 “(3) the Florida Reef Tract.

23 “(b) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than
24 540 days after the date of enactment of the South Florida
25 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force, in ac-
26 cordance with the authority under section 603, shall com-

1 plete and submit to Congress and the President an interim
2 integrated assessment. Not later than 3 years after such
3 date of enactment, the Task Force shall finalize, and sub-
4 mit to Congress and the President, such assessment. Such
5 assessment shall examine the causes, consequences, and
6 potential approaches to reduce harmful algal blooms and
7 hypoxia in South Florida, and the status of, and gaps
8 within, current harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research,
9 monitoring, management, prevention, response, and con-
10 trol activities that directly affect the region by—

11 “(1) Federal agencies;

12 “(2) State agencies;

13 “(3) regional research consortia;

14 “(4) academia;

15 “(5) private industry;

16 “(6) nongovernmental organizations; and

17 “(7) Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of
18 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
19 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

20 “(c) ACTION PLAN.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years and
22 6 months after the date of the enactment of the
23 South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019,
24 the Task Force shall develop and submit to Con-
25 gress a plan, based on the integrated assessment

1 under subsection (b), for reducing, mitigating, and
2 controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in
3 South Florida.

4 “(2) CONTENTS.—The plan submitted under
5 paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) address the monitoring needs identi-
7 fied in the integrated assessment under sub-
8 section (b);

9 “(B) develop a timeline and budgetary re-
10 quirements for deployment of future assets;

11 “(C) identify requirements for the develop-
12 ment and verification of South Florida harmful
13 algal bloom and hypoxia models, including—

14 “(i) all assumptions built into the
15 models; and

16 “(ii) data quality methods used to en-
17 sure the best available data are utilized;
18 and

19 “(D) propose a plan to implement a re-
20 mote monitoring network and early warning
21 system for alerting local communities in the re-
22 gion to harmful algal bloom risks that may im-
23 pact human health.

24 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the action
25 plan, the Task Force shall—

1 “(A) consult with the State of Florida, and
2 affected local and tribal governments;

3 “(B) consult with representatives from re-
4 gional academic, agricultural, industry, and
5 other stakeholder groups;

6 “(C) ensure that the plan complements
7 and does not duplicate activities conducted by
8 other Federal or State agencies, including the
9 South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
10 Force;

11 “(D) identify critical research for reducing,
12 mitigating, and controlling harmful algal bloom
13 events and their effects;

14 “(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-
15 based partnership approaches;

16 “(F) ensure that the plan is technically
17 sound and cost-effective;

18 “(G) utilize existing research, assessments,
19 reports, and program activities;

20 “(H) publish a summary of the proposed
21 plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days
22 prior to submitting the completed plan to Con-
23 gress; and

24 “(I) after submitting the completed plan to
25 Congress, provide biennial progress reports on

1 the activities toward achieving the objectives of
2 the plan.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The
4 table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Author-
5 ization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by
6 striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the
7 following new items:

“TITLE VI—HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA

“Sec. 601. Short title.

“Sec. 602. Findings.

“Sec. 603. Assessments.

“Sec. 603A. National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program.

“Sec. 603B. Comprehensive research plan and action strategy.

“Sec. 604. Northern Gulf of Mexico hypoxia.

“Sec. 605. South Florida harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

“Sec. 606. Great Lakes hypoxia and harmful algal blooms.

“Sec. 607. Protection of States’ Rights.

“Sec. 608. Effect on other Federal authority.

“Sec. 609. Definitions.

“Sec. 610. Authorization of appropriations.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 26,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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