

Union Calendar No. 159

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 335

[Report No. 116–202, Part I]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. SOTO, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. WALTZ

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Reported from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Committee on Natural Resources discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 8, 2019]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “South Florida Clean*
 5 *Coastal Waters Act of 2019”.*

6 **SEC. 2. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HY-**
 7 **POXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hy-*
 9 *poxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–*
 10 *383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—*

11 *(1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609 as*
 12 *sections 606 through 610, respectively; and*

13 *(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:*

14 **“SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND**
 15 **HYPOXIA.**

16 *“(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term*
 17 *‘South Florida’ means—*

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

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

24 *“(3) the Florida Reef Tract.*

1 “(b) *INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.*—Not later than 540
 2 days after the date of enactment of the South Florida Clean
 3 Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force, in accordance
 4 with the authority under section 603, shall complete and
 5 submit to Congress and the President an interim integrated
 6 assessment. Not later than 3 years after such date of enact-
 7 ment, the Task Force shall finalize, and submit to Congress
 8 and the President, such assessment. Such assessment shall
 9 examine the causes, consequences, and potential approaches
 10 to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Flor-
 11 ida, and the status of, and gaps within, current harmful
 12 algal bloom and hypoxia research, monitoring, manage-
 13 ment, prevention, response, and control activities that di-
 14 rectly affect the region by—

15 “(1) *Federal agencies;*

16 “(2) *State agencies;*

17 “(3) *regional research consortia;*

18 “(4) *academia;*

19 “(5) *private industry;*

20 “(6) *nongovernmental organizations; and*

21 “(7) *Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the*
 22 *Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance*
 23 *Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).*

24 “(c) *ACTION PLAN.*—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of the enactment of the South Florida Clean
3 Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force shall de-
4 velop and submit to Congress a plan, based on the in-
5 tegrated assessment under subsection (b), for reducing,
6 mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and
7 hypoxia in South Florida.

8 “(2) *CONTENTS.*—The plan submitted under
9 paragraph (1) shall—

10 “(A) address the monitoring needs identi-
11 fied in the integrated assessment under sub-
12 section (b);

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

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

18 “(i) all assumptions built into the
19 models; and

20 “(ii) data quality methods used to en-
21 sure the best available data are utilized;
22 and

23 “(D) propose a plan to implement a remote
24 monitoring network and early warning system
25 for alerting local communities in the region to

1 *harmful algal bloom risks that may impact*
2 *human health.*

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

5 “(A) *consult with the State of Florida, and*
6 *affected local and tribal governments;*

7 “(B) *consult with representatives from re-*
8 *gional academic, agricultural, industry, and*
9 *other stakeholder groups;*

10 “(C) *ensure that the plan complements and*
11 *does not duplicate activities conducted by other*
12 *Federal or State agencies, including the South*
13 *Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force;*

14 “(D) *identify critical research for reducing,*
15 *mitigating, and controlling harmful algal bloom*
16 *events and their effects;*

17 “(E) *evaluate cost-effective, incentive-based*
18 *partnership approaches;*

19 “(F) *ensure that the plan is technically*
20 *sound and cost-effective;*

21 “(G) *utilize existing research, assessments,*
22 *reports, and program activities;*

23 “(H) *publish a summary of the proposed*
24 *plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days*

1 *prior to submitting the completed plan to Con-*
 2 *gress; and*

3 “(I) after submitting the completed plan to
 4 Congress, provide biennial progress reports on
 5 the activities toward achieving the objectives of
 6 the plan.”.

7 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The*
 8 *table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authoriza-*
 9 *tion Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by*
 10 *striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the fol-*
 11 *lowing 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.”.*

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