

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 10

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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”.

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

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and
 4 Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law
 5 105–383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

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

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

9 **“SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND**
 10 **HYPOXIA.**

11 “(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term
 12 ‘South Florida’ has the same meaning given the term
 13 ‘South Florida ecosystem’ in section 601(a)(5) of the
 14 Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law
 15 106–541).

16 “(b) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than
 17 540 days after the date of enactment of the South Florida
 18 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force, in ac-
 19 cordance with the authority under section 603, shall com-
 20 plete and submit to Congress and the President an inte-
 21 grated assessment that examines the causes, conse-
 22 quences, and potential approaches to reduce harmful algal
 23 blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and the status of,
 24 and gaps within, current harmful algal bloom and hypoxia
 25 research, monitoring, management, prevention, response,
 26 and control activities that directly affect the region by—

- 1 “(1) Federal agencies;
- 2 “(2) State agencies;
- 3 “(3) regional research consortia;
- 4 “(4) academia;
- 5 “(5) private industry; and
- 6 “(6) nongovernmental organizations.

7 “(c) ACTION PLAN.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of the enactment of the South Florida
10 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force
11 shall develop and submit to Congress a plan, based
12 on the integrated assessment under subsection (b),
13 for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful
14 algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida.

15 “(2) CONTENTS.—The plan submitted under
16 paragraph (1) shall—

17 “(A) address the monitoring needs identi-
18 fied in the integrated assessment under sub-
19 section (b);

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

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

1 “(i) all assumptions built into the
2 models; and

3 “(ii) data quality methods used to en-
4 sure the best available data are utilized;
5 and

6 “(D) propose a plan to implement a re-
7 mote monitoring network and early warning
8 system for alerting local communities in the re-
9 gion to harmful algal bloom risks that may im-
10 pact human health.

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

13 “(A) coordinate and consult with the State
14 of Florida, and affected local and tribal govern-
15 ments;

16 “(B) consult with representatives from re-
17 gional academic, agricultural, industry, and
18 other stakeholder groups;

19 “(C) ensure that the plan complements
20 and does not duplicate activities conducted by
21 other Federal or State agencies, including the
22 South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
23 Force;

1 “(D) identify critical research for reducing,
 2 mitigating, and controlling harmful algal bloom
 3 events and their effects;

4 “(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-
 5 based partnership approaches;

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

8 “(G) utilize existing research, assessments,
 9 reports, and program activities;

10 “(H) publish a summary of the proposed
 11 plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days
 12 prior to submitting the completed plan to Con-
 13 gress; and

14 “(I) after submitting the completed plan to
 15 Congress, provide biennial progress reports on
 16 the activities toward achieving the objectives of
 17 the plan.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The
 19 table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Author-
 20 ization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by
 21 striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the
 22 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. Effect on other Federal authority.

“Sec. 608. Definitions.

“Sec. 609. Authorization of appropriations.”.

