

By Representatives Bradley and Carlton

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to red tide research and  
3           mitigation; requiring the Secretary of  
4           Environmental Protection to create the Red Tide  
5           Study Committee; providing for committee  
6           membership and duties; requiring an interim  
7           report and a final report to the Legislature;  
8           requiring the Mote Marine Laboratory to  
9           undertake a project; providing project goals;  
10          providing legislative intent; providing duties  
11          of the marine laboratory; requiring the marine  
12          laboratory to consult with the study committee;  
13          providing an appropriation; providing an  
14          effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. (1) The Secretary of Environmental  
19 Protection shall create the Red Tide Study Committee and shall  
20 appoint to the committee scientists, engineers, and members of  
21 citizen groups. The study committee shall determine  
22 appropriate studies and make recommendations for using funds  
23 provided under this act for red tide control and mitigation.  
24 The committee shall present an interim report, including its  
25 recommendations, to the Legislature by January 30, 1999, and  
26 shall submit a final report to the Legislature by June 30,  
27 1999.

28           (2) The Red Tide Study Committee shall:

29           (a) Review the status and adequacy of information for  
30 monitoring physical, chemical, and biological factors  
31 affecting red tide development on the west Florida shelf;

1           (b) Assess the capabilities of existing marine  
2 research facilities, both private and public, to provide the  
3 resources required for processing, interpreting, and applying  
4 data to red tide detection and prediction; and

5           (c) Develop recommendations that can be implemented by  
6 state and local governments to control and mitigate the  
7 effects of red tide.

8           Section 2. (1)(a) The Mote Marine Laboratory shall  
9 undertake a project designed to increase the knowledge of  
10 factors that control red tide blooms and to provide a basis  
11 for early detection of factors precipitating red tides; for  
12 accurate prediction of the extent and seriousness of red  
13 tides; and for mounting successful efforts to control, or  
14 mitigate the effects of, red tides.

15           (b) The Legislature intends that this project address  
16 areas that are not adequately covered in the cooperative  
17 program known as Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal  
18 Booms (ECOHAB), which Mote Marine Laboratory has recently  
19 undertaken with the Department of Environmental Protection,  
20 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the  
21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as  
22 scientists from several universities and other federal  
23 agencies.

24           (c) The goal of this project is to produce an  
25 integrated detection and prediction network for monitoring and  
26 responding to the development and movement of red tide blooms  
27 on the Florida shelf. The further goal is that applications of  
28 this interactive system will allow resource managers to assess  
29 the potential for public health and economic damage from a  
30 given bloom and to mount control or mitigation efforts, or  
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1 both, at specific sites along the west Florida shelf and  
2 coastal regions.

3 (2) In order to perform the project authorized in  
4 subsection (1), Mote Marine Laboratory shall:

5 (a) Acquire, if necessary, and use facilities and  
6 instrumentation that are specifically designed for monitoring  
7 physical, chemical, and biological factors that affect red  
8 tide development on the west Florida shelf;

9 (b) Acquire, if necessary, and use other resources as  
10 required for processing, interpreting, and applying to red  
11 tide detection and prediction the data obtained under  
12 paragraph (a); and

13 (c) Establish laboratory facilities for evaluating new  
14 methodologies for red tide control and mitigation.

15 (3) In conducting this project, the project directors  
16 shall consult with the Red Tide Study Committee and shall give  
17 due consideration to the committee's recommendations.

18 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General  
19 Revenue Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection for  
20 fiscal year 1998-1999 the sum of \$3 million to carry out the  
21 purposes of this act. Of these funds, up to \$300,000 shall be  
22 used by the Red Tide Study Committee to direct a study of the  
23 economic impact of typical financial losses associated with  
24 red tide bloom in Florida using the blooms that occurred in  
25 1995-1996 as a model for the study. The economic impact study  
26 must be designed in cooperation with and with the use of  
27 federal sea grant program funds, if feasible. The remaining  
28 funds must be used for activities of the Mote Marine  
29 Laboratory which are authorized by section 2 of this act and  
30 which focus specifically on the control and mitigation of red  
31 tide.

1           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1 of the  
2 year in which enacted.

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5                               SENATE SUMMARY

6           Requires the Secretary of Environmental Protection to  
7           create the Red Tide Study Committee to study red tides  
8           and make recommendations for their control and  
9           mitigation. Requires the committee to submit to the  
10           Legislature an interim report and a final report.  
11           Requires the Mote Marine Laboratory to undertake a  
12           project designed to increase knowledge that will provide  
13           a basis for detecting and controlling or mitigating the  
14           effects of red tides. Provides for project goals and  
15           procedures. Requires the marine laboratory to consult  
16           with the study committee. Provides an appropriation.

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