

By the Committee on Water & Resource Management and  
Representative Bradley

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to red tide research and  
3           mitigation; establishing a Harmful-Algal-Bloom  
4           Task Force; providing for task force membership  
5           and duties; requiring the Florida Marine  
6           Research Institute to implement a program;  
7           providing legislative intent; providing program  
8           goals; providing an appropriation; providing an  
9           effective date.

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

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13                   Section 1. (1) There is established a  
14 Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force for the purpose of determining  
15 research, monitoring, control, and mitigation strategies for  
16 red tide and other harmful algal blooms in Florida waters. The  
17 Florida Marine Research Institute shall appoint to the task  
18 force scientists, engineers, economists, members of citizen  
19 groups, and members of government. The task force shall  
20 determine research and monitoring priorities and control and  
21 mitigation strategies and make recommendations to the Fish and  
22 Wildlife Conservation Commission by October 1, 1999, for using  
23 funds as provided in this act.

24                   (2) The Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force shall:

25                   (a) Review the status and adequacy of information for  
26 monitoring physical, chemical, biological, economic, and  
27 public health factors affecting harmful algal blooms in  
28 Florida;

29                   (b) Develop research and monitoring priorities for  
30 harmful algal blooms in Florida, including detection,  
31 prediction, mitigation, and control;

1       (c) Develop recommendations that can be implemented by  
2 state and local governments to develop a response plan and to  
3 predict, mitigate, and control the effects of harmful algal  
4 blooms; and

5       (d) Make recommendations to the Florida Marine  
6 Research Institute by October 1, 1999, for research,  
7 detection, monitoring, prediction, mitigation, and control of  
8 harmful algal blooms in the state.

9       (3) After the completion of the tasks specified in  
10 subsection (2), the Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force may be  
11 continued at the pleasure of the Florida Marine Research  
12 Institute.

13       Section 2. (1)(a) The Florida Marine Research  
14 Institute shall implement a program designed to increase the  
15 knowledge of factors that control harmful algal blooms,  
16 including red tide, and to gain knowledge to be used for the  
17 early detection of factors precipitating harmful algal blooms,  
18 for accurate prediction of the extent and seriousness of  
19 harmful algal blooms, and for undertaking successful efforts  
20 to control and mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms.

21       (b) The Legislature intends that this program enhance  
22 and address areas that are not adequately covered in the  
23 cooperative federal-state program known as Ecology and  
24 Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB-Florida), which  
25 includes the University of South Florida, Mote Marine  
26 Laboratory, and the Florida Marine Research Institute.

27       (c) The goal of this program is to enable resource  
28 managers to assess the potential for public health damage and  
29 economic damage from a given bloom and to undertake control  
30 and mitigation efforts through the development and application  
31 of an integrated detection and prediction network for

1 monitoring and responding to the development and movement of  
2 harmful algal blooms in Florida marine and estuarine waters.

3 (2) A financial disbursement program is created within  
4 the Florida Marine Research Institute to implement the  
5 provisions of this act. Under the program, the institute shall  
6 provide funding and technical assistance to government  
7 agencies, research universities, coastal local governments,  
8 and organizations with scientific and technical expertise for  
9 the purposes of harmful-algal-bloom research, economic impact  
10 study, monitoring, detection, control, and mitigation. The  
11 program may be funded from state, federal, and private  
12 contributions.

13 Section 3. There is hereby appropriated from the  
14 General Revenue Fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute  
15 for fiscal year 1999-2000 the sum of \$3 million to carry out  
16 the purposes of this act.

17 (1) From these funds, \$1 million shall be used for  
18 continuation of the harmful-algal-bloom contracts let to  
19 Manatee Community College, the University of Florida, the  
20 University of Miami, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
21 Administration, the United States Food and Drug  
22 Administration, the St. Johns River Water Management District,  
23 the Florida Department of Health, the Mote Marine Laboratory,  
24 the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and a citizens group  
25 Solutions to Avoid Red Tide, in fiscal year 1998-1999, in  
26 order to bring these 10 studies to completion. These  
27 contracts should promote state, federal, and private  
28 partnerships. No more than \$75,000 shall be used by the  
29 Florida Marine Research Institute for technical administration  
30 of these contracts. Up to \$50,000 shall be used by the  
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1 institute to support the travel and document-production costs  
2 of the Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force.  
3       (2) From the remaining \$2 million appropriated by this  
4 section, \$1 million shall be provided to the Mote Marine  
5 Laboratory and \$1 million shall be provided to the Florida  
6 Marine Research Institute, to be used for a cooperative study  
7 of harmful algal blooms to address areas of critical need.  
8       (3) Contractual services procured under this section  
9 are not subject to the provisions of s. 287.057, Florida  
10 Statutes.  
11       Section 4. No rules shall be required to implement  
12 this act.  
13       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.  
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