

By the Committee on Natural Resources and Senator Carlton

312-1926-99

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to red tide research and mitigation; establishing a Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force; providing for task force membership and duties; providing legislative intent; providing program goals; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Develop recommendations that can be implemented by state and local governments to develop a response plan and to

1 predict, mitigate, and control the effects of harmful algal  
2 blooms; and

3 (d) Make recommendations to the department by October  
4 1, 1999, for research, detection, monitoring, prediction,  
5 mitigation, and control of harmful algal blooms in Florida.

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

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

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

24 (c) The goal of this program is to enable resource  
25 managers to assess the potential for public health damage and  
26 economic damage from a given bloom and to undertake control  
27 and mitigation efforts through the development and application  
28 of an integrated detection and prediction network for  
29 monitoring and responding to the development and movement of  
30 harmful algal blooms in Florida marine and estuarine waters.

31

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

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

15           (1) From these funds \$1 million shall be used for  
16 continuation of the harmful-algal-bloom contracts let to the  
17 Manatee Community College, the University of Florida, the  
18 University of Miami, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
19 Administration, the United States Food and Drug  
20 Administration, the St. Johns River Water Management District,  
21 the Florida Department of Health, the Mote Marine Laboratory,  
22 the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and a citizens group  
23 Solutions to Avoid Red Tide in fiscal year 1999-2000 in order  
24 to bring these 10 studies to completion. These contracts  
25 should promote state, federal, and private partnerships. No  
26 more than \$75,000 may be used by the Florida Marine Research  
27 Institute for technical administration of these contracts. Up  
28 to \$50,000 shall be used by the institute to support the  
29 travel and document-production costs of the  
30 Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force.

31

1           (2) From the remaining \$2 million appropriated by this  
2 section, \$1 million shall be provided to Mote Marine  
3 Laboratory and \$1 million to the Florida Marine Research  
4 Institute, to be used for a cooperative study of harmful algal  
5 blooms to address areas of critical need.

6           (3) Contractual services procured under this section  
7 are not subject to the provisions of section 287.057, Florida  
8 Statutes.

9           Section 4. Rules are not required to implement this  
10 act.

11           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

12  
13                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
14   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
15   SB 2038

16 The committee substitute provides that the Harmful-Algal-Bloom  
17 Task Force will be appointed by the Florida Marine Research  
18 Institute instead of the Secretary of Environmental  
19 Protection. Provides that the task force will make  
20 recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
21 Commission instead of the Department of Environmental  
22 Protection. The task force may be continued at the pleasure of  
23 the Florida Marine Research Institute.

24 Provides that the federal-state program known as Ecology and  
25 Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (COHAB-Florida) includes  
26 the University of South Florida, the Mote Marine Laboratory,  
27 and the Florida Marine Research Institute.

28 Deletes the provision that the Florida Marine Research  
29 Institute is to expend certain funds and deletes the criteria  
30 upon which certain contracts are to be awarded.

31 Provides that \$1 million is to be used to continue certain  
harmful-algal-bloom contracts that have been let.

Contractual services procured under the provisions of this  
bill are not subject to the provisions of s. 287.057, F.S.