

By Senator Brodeur

9-00759B-22

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the long-term cleanup of harmful
3 algal blooms; providing a short title; requiring the
4 Department of Environmental Protection to take certain
5 actions to physically remove, reduce, clean up, and
6 respond to harmful algal blooms; requiring the
7 department to give preference to innovative
8 technologies that meet certain standards; providing an
9 effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis created the Blue-Green Algae
12 Task Force in 2019 to "improve water quality for the benefit of
13 all Floridians," and

14 WHEREAS, the task force and the Department of Environmental
15 Protection are working together to pilot innovative technologies
16 to eliminate the occurrence of harmful algal blooms and to clean
17 water bodies throughout this state, and

18 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that funding is
19 necessary to implement a long-term program to clean water bodies
20 that are high in nitrates and nutrients that foster algal
21 blooms, and

22 WHEREAS, the department is the responsible entity for
23 cleanup of this state's water bodies to protect the health,
24 safety, and wellness of all residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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28 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Implementation of
29 Long-term Solutions for Cleaning Florida's Water Bodies Act."

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30 Section 2. Long-term cleanup of harmful algal blooms.-

31 (1) To address the growing threat to the general public
32 from harmful algal blooms, the Department of Environmental
33 Protection shall procure innovative technologies that will
34 physically remove harmful algal blooms, toxins, algae, and
35 nutrients from water bodies in this state; provide resources to
36 reduce harmful algal blooms; provide the best available
37 technology for the long-term cleanup of the harmful algal
38 blooms; and develop a plan for emergency response action.

39 (2) The department shall give preference to innovative
40 technologies that reduce the nitrates and toxins fostering
41 harmful algal blooms, are scalable, and are proven to improve
42 water quality in freshwater bodies.

43 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.