

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

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

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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 2018”.

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 2018, 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, con-
22 sequences, and potential approaches to reduce harmful
23 algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and the status
24 of, and gaps within, current harmful algal bloom and hy-
25 poxia research, monitoring, management, prevention, re-

1 sponse, and control activities that directly affect the region
2 by—

3 “(1) Federal agencies;

4 “(2) State agencies;

5 “(3) regional research consortia;

6 “(4) academia;

7 “(5) private industry; and

8 “(6) nongovernmental organizations.

9 “(c) ACTION PLAN.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
11 after the date of the enactment of the South Florida
12 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2018, the Task Force
13 shall develop and submit to Congress a plan, based
14 on the integrated assessment under subsection (b),
15 for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful
16 algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida.

17 “(2) CONTENTS.—The plan submitted under
18 paragraph (1) shall—

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

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

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

4 “(i) all assumptions built into the
5 models; and

6 “(ii) data quality methods used to en-
7 sure the best available data are utilized;
8 and

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

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

16 “(A) coordinate and consult with the State
17 of Florida, and affected local and tribal govern-
18 ments;

19 “(B) consult with representatives from re-
20 gional academic, agricultural, industry, and
21 other stakeholder groups;

22 “(C) ensure that the plan complements
23 and does not duplicate activities conducted by
24 other Federal or State agencies, including the

1 South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
2 Force;

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

6 “(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-
7 based partnership approaches;

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

10 “(G) utilize existing research, assessments,
11 reports, and program activities;

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

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

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The
21 table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Author-
22 ization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by
23 striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the
24 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.”.