

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 335, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 335

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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 2019”.

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’ means—

13 “(1) all lands and waters within the administra-
14 tive boundaries of the South Florida Water Manage-
15 ment District;

16 “(2) regional coastal waters, including Biscayne
17 Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Florida Bay, and
18 Indian River Lagoon; and

19 “(3) the Florida Reef Tract.

20 “(b) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than
21 540 days after the date of enactment of the South Florida
22 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force, in ac-
23 cordance with the authority under section 603, shall com-
24 plete and submit to Congress and the President an interim
25 integrated assessment. Not later than 3 years after such
26 date of enactment, the Task Force shall finalize, and sub-

1 mit to Congress and the President, such assessment. Such
2 assessment shall examine the causes, consequences, and
3 potential approaches to reduce harmful algal blooms and
4 hypoxia in South Florida, and the status of, and gaps
5 within, current harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research,
6 monitoring, management, prevention, response, and con-
7 trol activities that directly affect the region by—

8 “(1) Federal agencies;

9 “(2) State agencies;

10 “(3) regional research consortia;

11 “(4) academia;

12 “(5) private industry;

13 “(6) nongovernmental organizations; and

14 “(7) Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of
15 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
16 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

17 “(c) ACTION PLAN.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years and
19 6 months after the date of the enactment of the
20 South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019,
21 the Task Force shall develop and submit to Con-
22 gress a plan, based on the integrated assessment
23 under subsection (b), for reducing, mitigating, and
24 controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in
25 South Florida.

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

3 “(A) address the monitoring needs identi-
4 fied in the integrated assessment under sub-
5 section (b);

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

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

11 “(i) all assumptions built into the
12 models; and

13 “(ii) data quality methods used to en-
14 sure the best available data are utilized;
15 and

16 “(D) propose a plan to implement a re-
17 mote monitoring network and early warning
18 system for alerting local communities in the re-
19 gion to harmful algal bloom risks that may im-
20 pact human health.

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

23 “(A) consult with the State of Florida, and
24 affected local and tribal governments;

1 “(B) consult with representatives from re-
2 gional academic, agricultural, industry, and
3 other stakeholder groups;

4 “(C) ensure that the plan complements
5 and does not duplicate activities conducted by
6 other Federal or State agencies, including the
7 South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
8 Force;

9 “(D) identify critical research for reducing,
10 mitigating, and controlling harmful algal bloom
11 events and their effects;

12 “(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-
13 based partnership approaches;

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

16 “(G) utilize existing research, assessments,
17 reports, and program activities;

18 “(H) publish a summary of the proposed
19 plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days
20 prior to submitting the completed plan to Con-
21 gress; and

22 “(I) after submitting the completed plan to
23 Congress, provide biennial progress reports on
24 the activities toward achieving the objectives of
25 the plan.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The
2 table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Author-
3 ization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by
4 striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the
5 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. Protection of States’ Rights.
- “Sec. 608. Effect on other Federal authority.
- “Sec. 609. Definitions.
- “Sec. 610. Authorization of appropriations.”.