

CHAPTER 99-185

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2038

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 Florida Marine Research Institute 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 predict, mitigate, and control the effects of harmful algal blooms; and

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

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

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

(b) The Legislature intends that this program enhance and address areas that are not adequately covered in the cooperative federal-state program

known as Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB-Florida), which includes the University of South Florida, the Mote Marine Laboratory, and the Florida Marine Research Institute.

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

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

Section 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 376.11, Florida Statutes, there is hereby appropriated from the Coastal Protection Trust Fund to the Florida Marine Research Institute for fiscal year 1999-2000 an additional sum of \$3 million to carry out the purposes of this act.

(1) From these funds \$1 million shall be used for continuation of the harmful-algal-bloom contracts let to the Manatee Community College, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Food and Drug Administration, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Health, the Mote Marine Laboratory, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and a citizens group Solutions to Avoid Red Tide in fiscal year 1998-1999 in order to bring these 10 studies to completion. These contracts should promote state, federal, and private partnerships. No more than \$75,000 may be used by the Florida Marine Research Institute for technical administration of these contracts. Up to \$50,000 shall be used by the institute to support the travel and document-production costs of the Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force.

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor May 18, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 18, 1999.