

CHAPTER 2024-105

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1565

An act relating to the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative; amending s. 379.2273, F.S.; requiring the initiative to develop recommendations for deployment of certain technologies and approaches and submit a report to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and specified state agencies; requiring the department to submit an evaluation regarding the technologies and approaches to Mote Marine Laboratory within a specified time period and amend regulatory or permitting processes and expedite regulatory reviews under certain circumstances; removing the expiration date of the initiative; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 379.2273, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, and subsection (4) of that section is amended, to read:

379.2273 Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative; Initiative Technology Advisory Council.—

(2) The Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative is established as a partnership between the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute within the commission and Mote Marine Laboratory.

(c) Upon successful completion of science-based laboratory testing of prevention, control, and mitigation technologies and approaches, the initiative shall develop recommendations for field trial deployment of the technologies and approaches in state waters. The initiative shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the department, the commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and other state agencies with regulatory oversight of field trial deployment of the technologies and approaches in state waters. The department shall evaluate the technologies and approaches and identify all existing state permits Mote Marine Laboratory may use to deploy and test the technologies and approaches in state waters. The department shall submit its evaluation to Mote Marine Laboratory within 60 days after receipt of the report. If the department determines existing state permits may not be used, the department shall amend its regulatory or permitting processes to ensure the timely deployment of any red tide or similar harmful algal bloom mitigation and control technologies and approaches recommended by the initiative. Upon successful testing of the technologies and approaches, the department shall expedite regulatory reviews for the recurring use of the

technologies and approaches in state waters to control and mitigate the impacts of red tide or similar harmful algal blooms.

~~(4) This section expires June 30, 2025.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor April 23, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 23, 2024.