

# Union Calendar No. 159

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 335

**[Report No. 116–202, Part I]**

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.

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## 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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. SOTO, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. WALTZ

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Reported from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Committee on Natural Resources discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 8, 2019]

# **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”.*

6 **SEC. 2. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HY-**  
7 **POXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hy-*  
9 *poxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–*  
10 *383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—*

11 *(1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609 as*  
12 *sections 606 through 610, respectively; and*

13 *(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:*

14 **“SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND**  
15 **HYPOXIA.**

16 *“(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term*  
17 *‘South Florida’ means—*

18 *“(1) all lands and waters within the administra-*  
19 *tive boundaries of the South Florida Water Manage-*  
20 *ment District;*

21 *“(2) regional coastal waters, including Biscayne*  
22 *Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Florida Bay, and*  
23 *Indian River Lagoon; and*

24 *“(3) the Florida Reef Tract.*

1           “(b) *INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.*—Not later than 540  
2 *days after the date of enactment of the South Florida Clean*  
3 *Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force, in accordance*  
4 *with the authority under section 603, shall complete and*  
5 *submit to Congress and the President an interim integrated*  
6 *assessment. Not later than 3 years after such date of enact-*  
7 *ment, the Task Force shall finalize, and submit to Congress*  
8 *and the President, such assessment. Such assessment shall*  
9 *examine the causes, consequences, and potential approaches*  
10 *to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Flor-*  
11 *ida, and the status of, and gaps within, current harmful*  
12 *algal bloom and hypoxia research, monitoring, manage-*  
13 *ment, prevention, response, and control activities that di-*  
14 *rectly affect the region by—*

15                   “(1) *Federal agencies;*

16                   “(2) *State agencies;*

17                   “(3) *regional research consortia;*

18                   “(4) *academia;*

19                   “(5) *private industry;*

20                   “(6) *nongovernmental organizations; and*

21                   “(7) *Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the*  
22 *Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance*  
23 *Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).*

24           “(c) *ACTION PLAN.*—

1           “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after  
2           *the date of the enactment of the South Florida Clean*  
3           *Coastal Waters Act of 2019, the Task Force shall de-*  
4           *velop and submit to Congress a plan, based on the in-*  
5           *tegrated assessment under subsection (b), for reducing,*  
6           *mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and*  
7           *hypoxia in South Florida.*

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

10                   “(A) *address the monitoring needs identi-*  
11                   *fied in the integrated assessment under sub-*  
12                   *section (b);*

13                   “(B) *develop a timeline and budgetary re-*  
14                   *quirements for deployment of future assets;*

15                   “(C) *identify requirements for the develop-*  
16                   *ment and verification of South Florida harmful*  
17                   *algal bloom and hypoxia models, including—*

18                           “(i) *all assumptions built into the*  
19                           *models; and*

20                           “(ii) *data quality methods used to en-*  
21                           *sure the best available data are utilized;*  
22                           *and*

23                   “(D) *propose a plan to implement a remote*  
24                   *monitoring network and early warning system*  
25                   *for alerting local communities in the region to*

1           *harmful algal bloom risks that may impact*  
2           *human health.*

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

5                     “(A) *consult with the State of Florida, and*  
6                     *affected local and tribal governments;*

7                     “(B) *consult with representatives from re-*  
8                     *gional academic, agricultural, industry, and*  
9                     *other stakeholder groups;*

10                    “(C) *ensure that the plan complements and*  
11                    *does not duplicate activities conducted by other*  
12                    *Federal or State agencies, including the South*  
13                    *Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force;*

14                    “(D) *identify critical research for reducing,*  
15                    *mitigating, and controlling harmful algal bloom*  
16                    *events and their effects;*

17                    “(E) *evaluate cost-effective, incentive-based*  
18                    *partnership approaches;*

19                    “(F) *ensure that the plan is technically*  
20                    *sound and cost-effective;*

21                    “(G) *utilize existing research, assessments,*  
22                    *reports, and program activities;*

23                    “(H) *publish a summary of the proposed*  
24                    *plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days*

1           *prior to submitting the completed plan to Con-*  
2           *gress; and*

3           “(I) *after submitting the completed plan to*  
4           *Congress, provide biennial progress reports on*  
5           *the activities toward achieving the objectives of*  
6           *the plan.*”.

7           **(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.**—*The*  
8           *table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authoriza-*  
9           *tion Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by*  
10          *striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the fol-*  
11          *lowing 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.*”.

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116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
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