

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3665

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 the Greater Everglades region, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 25, 2017

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 the Greater Everglades region, 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 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. GREATER EVERGLADES HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS**
2 **AND HYPOXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION**
3 **PLAN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and
5 Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law
6 105–383; 16 U.S.C. 1451 note) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609
8 as sections 606 through 610, respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

10 **“SEC. 605. GREATER EVERGLADES HARMFUL ALGAL**
11 **BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA.**

12 “(a) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 18
13 months after the date of enactment of South Florida
14 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2017, the Task Force, in ac-
15 cordance with the authority under section 603, shall com-
16 plete and submit to Congress and the President an inte-
17 grated assessment that examines the causes, con-
18 sequences, and potential approaches to reduce harmful
19 algal blooms and hypoxia in the Greater Everglades re-
20 gion, and the status of, and gaps within, current harmful
21 algal bloom and hypoxia research, monitoring, manage-
22 ment, prevention, response, and control activities that di-
23 rectly impact the region by—

24 “(1) Federal agencies;

25 “(2) State agencies;

26 “(3) regional research consortia;

- 1 “(4) academia;
- 2 “(5) private industry; and
- 3 “(6) nongovernmental organizations.

4 “(b) PLAN.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of the South Florida
7 Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2017, the Task Force
8 shall develop and submit to Congress a plan, based
9 on the integrated assessment under subsection (a),
10 for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful
11 algal blooms and hypoxia in the Greater Everglades
12 region.

13 “(2) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

14 “(A) address the monitoring needs identi-
15 fied in the integrated assessment under sub-
16 section (a);

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

19 “(C) comprehensively analyze how South
20 Florida Ecosystem Restoration efforts may af-
21 fect the distribution, magnitude, duration, and
22 frequency of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia
23 events within the region;

24 “(D) assess the effect of the Lake Okee-
25 chobee Regulation Schedule and the Army

1 Corps of Engineers’ management of lake levels,
2 including release timing, duration, and flow
3 rates, on the distribution, magnitude, duration,
4 and frequency of harmful algal blooms and hy-
5 poxia events within the region;

6 “(E) identify requirements for the develop-
7 ment and verification of Greater Everglades
8 harmful algal bloom and hypoxia models, in-
9 cluding—

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

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

15 “(F) propose a plan to implement a remote
16 monitoring network and early warning system
17 for alerting local communities in the region to
18 harmful algal bloom risks that may impact
19 human health.

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

22 “(A) coordinate and consult with the State
23 of Florida, and affected local and tribal govern-
24 ments;

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 “(c) GREATER EVERGLADES.—In this section, the
2 term ‘Greater Everglades’ means—

3 “(1) all lands and waters within the administra-
4 tive boundaries of the South Florida Water Manage-
5 ment District;

6 “(2) regional coastal waters including, but not
7 limited to, Biscayne Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estu-
8 ary, Florida Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon; and

9 “(3) the Florida Reef Tract.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION.—The
11 table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Author-
12 ization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383) is amended by
13 striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the
14 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. Greater Everglades 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.”.

