

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2647

Ordered by the House March 27
Including House Amendments dated March 27

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY, Senator TAYLOR; Representatives ANDERSEN, EVANS, GAMBA, PHAM
K (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Declares harmful algal blooms to be menace to public health and welfare. Directs Oregon Health Authority to [*develop response strategy to harmful algal blooms, produce and maintain relevant data*] **identify water sources susceptible to harmful algal blooms, monitor and test susceptible waters** and develop protocol for advisory alerts.

Directs Department of Environmental Quality to [*identify water sources susceptible to harmful algal blooms, monitor and test susceptible waters,*] **develop response strategy to harmful algal blooms, produce and maintain relevant data**, identify sources of pollutants, develop strategies to reduce pollutants[,] **and** determine causes [*and prepare biennial report*] **of harmful algal blooms**.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to water quality.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 448.119 to**
5 **448.285.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares harmful algal blooms to be**
7 **a threat to safe drinking water supplies and a menace to public health and welfare.**

8 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority, in coordination with the Department of Environmental**
9 **Quality as further provided for in section 4 of this 2023 Act, shall:**

10 **(a) Determine and identify drinking water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal**
11 **blooms or that are downstream of or influenced by water bodies that are susceptible to**
12 **harmful algal blooms.**

13 **(b) Develop a system for the regular monitoring and testing of drinking water sources**
14 **determined to be susceptible to harmful algal blooms or that are downstream of or influ-**
15 **enced by water bodies that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms.**

16 **(c) Prioritize monitoring of water bodies that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms and**
17 **that are:**

18 **(A) Sources of domestic or municipal drinking water; or**

19 **(B) Bodies of water accessed by the public for recreational use.**

20 **(d) Develop a protocol for issuing hazard advisory alerts to the public in the occurrence**
21 **of a harmful algal bloom.**

22 **SECTION 3. Section 4 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 468B.**

23 **SECTION 4. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with the**
24 **Oregon Health Authority, shall:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(a) Develop and maintain a coordinated state agency harmful algal bloom monitoring and**
2 **response strategy.**

3 **(b) Develop a system for the regular monitoring and testing of water bodies determined**
4 **to be susceptible to harmful algal blooms or that are downstream of or influenced by water**
5 **bodies that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms.**

6 **(c) Produce timely and high-quality data that allow the authority to determine the level**
7 **of risk of harm or injury to public health by the occurrence of harmful algal blooms.**

8 **(d) Maintain a publicly accessible clearinghouse or database of water quality samples**
9 **collected to characterize freshwater harmful algal blooms.**

10 **(e) Identify sources of pollutants that contribute to the occurrences of harmful algal**
11 **blooms.**

12 **(f) Develop and implement strategies for reducing pollutants that contribute to the oc-**
13 **currences of harmful algal blooms and the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms.**

14 **(g) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented for reducing**
15 **pollutants that contribute to the occurrences of harmful algal blooms.**

16 **(2)(a) As part of the state agency harmful algal bloom monitoring and response strategy**
17 **developed by the department under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall make**
18 **efforts to determine the causes of harmful algal blooms and to identify any point sources or**
19 **nonpoint sources that contribute to the susceptibility of specific bodies of water to harmful**
20 **algal blooms.**

21 **(b) The department shall work with persons to develop pollution reduction plans for point**
22 **sources and nonpoint sources identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

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