

House Bill 2647

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY, Senator TAYLOR; Representative 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 **as introduced**.

Declares harmful algal blooms to be a menace to public health and welfare. Directs Oregon Health Authority to develop response strategy to harmful algal blooms, produce and maintain relevant data 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, identify sources of pollutants, develop strategies to reduce pollutants, determine causes and prepare biennial report.

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

12 **(b) Prioritize monitoring of water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms**
13 **and that are:**

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

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

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

18 **(d) Maintain a publicly accessible clearinghouse of all data related to harmful algal**
19 **blooms.**

20 **(e) 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:**

25 **(a) Determine and identify water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms**
26 **or that are downstream of or influenced by water sources that are susceptible to harmful**
27 **algal blooms.**

28 **(b) Develop a system for the regular monitoring and testing of water sources determined**
29 **to be susceptible to harmful algal blooms or that are downstream of or influenced by water**

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 sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms.

2 (c) Identify sources of pollutants that contribute to the occurrences of harmful algal
3 blooms.

4 (d) Develop strategies for reducing pollutants that contribute to the occurrences of
5 harmful algal blooms and the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms.

6 (e) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented for reducing
7 pollutants that contribute to the occurrences of harmful algal blooms.

8 (2)(a) As part of the state agency harmful algal bloom monitoring and response strategy
9 developed by the authority under section 2 of this 2023 Act, the department shall make ef-
10 forts to determine the causes of harmful algal blooms and to identify any point sources or
11 nonpoint sources that contribute to the susceptibility of specific bodies of water to harmful
12 algal blooms.

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

15 (3) On or before September 15 of each even-numbered year, the department shall prepare
16 and submit to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly a report that includes an updated
17 quantitative and narrative summary and evaluation of the department's activities in admin-
18 istering this section.

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