

House Bill 4116

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY (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 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 develop response strategy to harmful algal blooms, produce and maintain relevant data, 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 2022 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 2022 Act, shall:**

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

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

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

18 **(A) Sources of domestic and 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 2022 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) Develop and maintain a coordinated state agency harmful algal bloom monitoring and**
26 **response strategy.**

27 **(b) Produce timely and high-quality data that allow the Oregon Health Authority to de-**
28 **termine the level of risk of harm or injury to the public health.**

29 **(c) Maintain a publicly accessible clearinghouse of all data related to harmful algal**

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 **blooms.**

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

4 (e) 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 (f) 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 strategy required by subsection (1) of this section, the department
9 shall make efforts to determine the causes of harmful algal blooms and to identify any point
10 sources or nonpoint sources that contribute to the susceptibility of specific bodies of water
11 to harmful algal blooms.

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

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

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