House Bill 2647

Sponsored by Representative HOLVEY, Senator TAYLOR; Representative PHAM K (Presession 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 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

Relating to water quality.

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

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

448.285.

SECTION 2. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares harmful algal blooms to be

a threat to safe drinking water supplies and a menace to public health and welfare.

(2) The Oregon Health Authority, in coordination with the Department of Environmental

Quality as further provided for in section 4 of this 2023 Act, shall:

(a) Develop and maintain a coordinated state agency harmful algal bloom monitoring and

response strategy.

(b) Prioritize monitoring of water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms

and that are:

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

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

c) Produce timely and high-quality data to determine the level of risk of harm or injury

to the public health by the occurrence of harmful algal blooms.

d) Maintain a publicly accessible clearinghouse of all data related to harmful algal

blooms.

e) Develop a protocol for issuing hazard advisory alerts to the public in the occurrence

of a harmful algal bloom.

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

SECTION 4. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with the

Oregon Health Authority, shall:

(a) Determine and identify water sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms

or that are downstream of or influenced by water sources that are susceptible to harmful

algal blooms.

(b) Develop a system for the regular monitoring and testing of water sources determined

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.

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sources that are susceptible to harmful algal blooms.

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

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

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

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

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

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