



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 101

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Hall, Boose, Thompson, Hambley, Baker, Perales, Blessing, Schaffer

BILL SUMMARY

Harmful algal blooms emergency plan

- Requires the Director of Environmental Protection to determine which bodies of water that supply water to public waters systems are susceptible to harmful algal blooms.
- Requires the owner or operator of a public water system, in consultation with the Director of Environmental Protection and the Director of Natural Resources, to develop an emergency plan to respond to harmful algal blooms if the bodies of water supplying the system are so susceptible.
- Requires the Director of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Director of Natural Resources, to provide technical assistance to public water systems in the development of emergency plans.

Harmful algal blooms early warning system

- Requires the Director of Environmental Protection to develop an early warning system for harmful algal blooms in Ohio waters and adopt rules that establish requirements and procedures for the activation of the system and dissemination of information via the system.

Harmful algae and cyanotoxins training

- Requires the Director or the Director's designee to conduct training for employees of publicly owned treatment works and public water systems to monitor and test for harmful algae and cyanotoxins in the water.

- Requires the Director to adopt rules that establish procedures for and topics to be included in the training.
- Requires the Directors of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources to provide assistance, as necessary, to the Director of Environmental Protection for the training.

Study regarding impact of Canada geese and zebra mussels on Lake Erie

- Requires the Director of Natural Resources to study the impacts, including economic and environmental, that Canada geese and zebra mussels have had on the water quality and uses of Lake Erie.
- Requires the Director, not later than 270 days after the bill's effective date, to issue a report of findings and recommendations to the committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate that are primarily responsible for agriculture and natural resources matters.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Harmful algal blooms emergency plan

The bill requires the Director of Environmental Protection to determine which bodies of water that supply water to public waters systems are susceptible to harmful algal blooms and so notify the applicable public water systems. It then requires the owner or operator of a public water system, in consultation with the Director of Environmental Protection and the Director of Natural Resources, to develop an emergency plan to respond to harmful algal blooms that threaten the system's water supply if the water supply is susceptible to harmful algal blooms. The Director of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Director of Natural Resources, must provide technical assistance to public water systems in the development of emergency plans.¹

Harmful algal blooms early warning system

The bill requires the Director of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Director of Natural Resources, to develop an early warning system for harmful algal blooms in Ohio waters. The Director of Environmental Protection must adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act that establish requirements and

¹ R.C. 6109.40.

procedures for the activation of the early warning system and dissemination of information via the system and any other necessary requirements and procedures.²

Harmful algae and cyanotoxins training

The bill also requires the Director of Environmental Protection or the Director's designee to conduct training for employees of publicly owned treatment works and public water systems to monitor and test for harmful algae and cyanotoxins in the water and requires the Director to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act that establish procedures for and topics to be included in the training. The Directors of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources must provide assistance, as necessary, to the Director of Environmental Protection for the training.³

Study regarding impact of Canada geese and zebra mussels on Lake Erie

Finally, the bill requires the Director of Natural Resources to study the impacts, including economic and environmental, that Canada geese and zebra mussels have had on the water quality and uses of Lake Erie. Not later than 270 days after the bill's effective date, the Director must issue a report of the Director's findings and recommendations to the committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate that are primarily responsible for agriculture and natural resources matters.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-04-15

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² R.C. 6109.41.

³ R.C. 6111.33.

⁴ Section 2.

