

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and
 3 Technology Development Initiative; amending s.
 4 379.2273, F.S.; requiring the initiative to develop
 5 recommendations for deployment of certain technologies
 6 and approaches and submit a report to the Department
 7 of Environmental Protection, the Fish and Wildlife
 8 Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture
 9 and Consumer Services, and specified state agencies;
 10 requiring the department to submit an evaluation
 11 regarding the technologies and approaches to Mote
 12 Marine Laboratory within a specified time period and
 13 amend regulatory or permitting processes and expedite
 14 regulatory reviews under certain circumstances;
 15 removing the expiration date of the initiative;
 16 providing an effective date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20 Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of
 21 section 379.2273, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 22 paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is
 23 added to that subsection, and subsection (4) of that section is
 24 amended, to read:

25 379.2273 Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology

26 Development Initiative; Initiative Technology Advisory Council.—

27 (2) The Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology
28 Development Initiative is established as a partnership between
29 the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute within the commission
30 and Mote Marine Laboratory.

31 (c) Upon successful completion of science-based laboratory
32 testing of prevention, control, and mitigation technologies and
33 approaches, the initiative shall develop recommendations for
34 field trial deployment of the technologies and approaches in
35 state waters. The initiative shall submit a report on its
36 findings and recommendations to the department, the commission,
37 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and other
38 state agencies with regulatory oversight of field trial
39 deployment of the technologies and approaches in state waters.
40 The department shall evaluate the technologies and approaches
41 and identify all existing state permits Mote Marine Laboratory
42 may use to deploy and test the technologies and approaches in
43 state waters. The department shall submit its evaluation to Mote
44 Marine Laboratory within 60 days after receipt of the report. If
45 the department determines existing state permits may not be
46 used, the department shall amend its regulatory or permitting
47 processes to ensure the timely deployment of any red tide or
48 similar harmful algal bloom mitigation and control technologies
49 and approaches recommended by the initiative. Upon successful
50 testing of the technologies and approaches, the department shall

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51 expedite regulatory reviews for the recurring use of the
52 technologies and approaches in state waters to control and
53 mitigate the impacts of red tide or similar harmful algal
54 blooms.

55 ~~(4) This section expires June 30, 2025.~~

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.