

S 1254

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jun 27, 2013

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 113-124.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 113-124. (Jun 30, 2014)

Law: 113-124 (Enacted Jun 30, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1254>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 27, 2013
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 25, 2013
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 25, 2013
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 30, 2013
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 1, 2013
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Aug 1, 2013
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 1, 2013
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 24, 2013
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 18, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 18, 2013
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 19, 2014
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 5, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on June 5, 2014. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014 - Reauthorizes, revises, and expands the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998.

(Sec. 3) Requires the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to have a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

(Sec. 4) Requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, acting through the Task Force, to: (1) maintain, enhance, and periodically review a national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program; and (2) develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive research plan and action strategy to address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia (a condition where low dissolved oxygen in aquatic systems causes stress or death to organisms).

Expands the Task Force's functions, including: (1) expediting and coordinating the interagency review process by ensuring timely review and dispersal of required reports and assessments; and (2) promoting the development of new technologies for predicting, monitoring, and mitigating harmful algal bloom and hypoxia conditions.

Gives the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the primary responsibility for administering the Program.

Establishes the Under Secretary's duties in administering the program, including the following:

- preparing work and spending plans;
- administering grant funding;
- coordinating with and working with regional, state, and tribal and local government agencies;
- coordinating with the Secretary of State to support international efforts;
- identifying additional research, development, and demonstration needs;
- coordinating and augmenting education programs;
- providing resources to train state and local coastal and water resource managers; and
- supporting regional efforts to control and mitigate outbreaks.

Requires the Under Secretary to carry out marine and Great Lakes harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events response activities.

Requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to: (1) research the ecology and impacts of freshwater harmful algal blooms; (2) forecast and monitor event response to freshwater harmful algal blooms in lakes, rivers, estuaries, and reservoirs; and (3) ensure that activities carried under this Act focus on new approaches to addressing freshwater harmful algal blooms and are not duplicative of existing research and development programs authorized by this Act or any other law.

(Sec. 7) Requires the Administrator, through the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, to report to appropriate congressional committees and the President on the progress made by activities directed by the Task Force and carried out or funded by the EPA and other state and federal partners toward attainment of the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008 within 12 months after this Act's enactment and biennially thereafter.

(Sec. 8) Requires the Task Force to: (1) submit within 18 months to Congress and the President an integrated assessment that examines the causes, consequences, and approaches to reduce hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes; and (2) develop and submit to Congress a plan, based on the assessment, for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia and harmful algal blooms.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 30, 2014:** Signed by President.
- **Jun 30, 2014:** Became Public Law No: 113-124.
- **Jun 19, 2014:** Presented to President.
- **Jun 18, 2014:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 17, 2014:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to House amendment to Senate bill by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S3771; text as Senate agreed to House amendment: CR S3771)
- **Jun 17, 2014:** Senate agreed to House amendment to Senate bill by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S3771; text as Senate agreed to House amendment: CR S3771)
- **Jun 10, 2014:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.
- **Jun 9, 2014:** Mr. Smith (TX) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 9, 2014:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5126-5130)
- **Jun 9, 2014:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 1254.
- **Jun 9, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5126-5128)
- **Jun 9, 2014:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5126-5128)
- **Jun 5, 2014:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H. Rept. 113-471, Part I.
- **Jun 5, 2014:** Committee on Natural Resources discharged.
- **Jun 5, 2014:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 350.
- **May 21, 2014:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 21, 2014:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 5, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.
- **Feb 19, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.
- **Feb 18, 2014:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Feb 18, 2014:** Received in the House.
- **Feb 18, 2014:** Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Feb 12, 2014:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S961-963)
- **Feb 12, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S961-963)
- **Feb 12, 2014:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S961-963)
- **Nov 18, 2013:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller without amendment. With written report No. 113-121.
- **Nov 18, 2013:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 248.
- **Jul 30, 2013:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.