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H.264

Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Browning of Arlington,
and Ralph of Hartland

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; water pollution; cyanobacteria monitoring

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Department of Health, at least every other day, to conduct or arrange for
monitoring for the presence cyanobacteria in every State or municipal
recreation area where the public can come into contact with waters of the State.

An act relating to monitoring for cyanobacteria in waters of the State

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1222 is amended to read:

§ 1222. CYANOBACTERIA MONITORING AND NOTIFICATION

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Cyanobacteria” means photosynthetic bacteria that have two
photosystems, produce molecular oxygen, and use water as an electron-
donating substrate in photosynthesis, including microcystis, anabaena, and
aphanizomenon.

(2) “Waters” shall have the same meaning as used in 10 V.S.A. § 1251.

1 (b) The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Secretary of
2 Natural Resources, shall coordinate efforts to monitor the presence of
3 cyanobacteria in the waters of the State.

4 (c) The Department of Health shall maintain a publicly accessible Internet
5 site that provides information concerning the presence of cyanobacteria in
6 areas known to be used for recreation, including swimming or boating. Within
7 one hour of a determination that the presence of cyanobacteria in a recreation
8 area is a public health hazard, the Commissioner of Health shall conduct public
9 outreach describing the area affected and the nature of the public health hazard
10 in the area.

11 (d) At least every other day, the Department of Health shall conduct or
12 arrange for monitoring for the presence of cyanobacteria in every State or
13 municipal recreation area where the public can come into contact with waters
14 of the State.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.