

HB14 INTRODUCED



1 HB14
2 NVE5J8T-1
3 By Representative Lipscomb
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
6 PFD: 01-Dec-23



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require the State Health Officer to issue an advisory regarding the consumption of fishes when deemed appropriate.

This bill would require the State Health Officer to establish a panel to provide recommendations on fish consumption advisories.

This bill would require the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to periodically evaluate fishes for pollutants.

This bill would require the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to post signage at public boat ramps adjacent to waters with an active fish consumption advisory.

This bill would also require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide access to a website for fish consumption advisories with each issuance of an electronic fishing license.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to consumption of fishes; to require the State Health Officer to issue advisories concerning fish consumption and to establish a panel to provide recommendations on such



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29 advisories; to require the Alabama Department of Environmental
30 Management to test fishes for pollutants and post signage at
31 relevant boat ramps notifying of active fish consumption
32 advisories; to require the Department of Conservation and
33 Natural Resources to provide access to a website for fish
34 consumption advisories with the issuance of an electronic
35 fishing license.

36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

37 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
38 the Safe and Healthy Outdoor Recreation Act.

39 Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of
40 the following:

41 (1) Outdoor recreation, including catching, cooking,
42 and eating fish is a fundamental way of life for countless
43 residents of this state.

44 (2) All residents of this state should have the right
45 to know whether it is safe to consume the fish they catch.

46 (3) Outdoor recreation-related illnesses stemming from
47 contact with polluted waters and contaminated fish pose a
48 severe public health risk to the residents of this state.

49 Section 3. (a) The State Health Officer, in
50 consultation with the Director of the Alabama Department of
51 Environmental Management, shall issue a fish consumption
52 advisory when it is reasonable and necessary to protect public
53 health and well-being. The Alabama Department of Public Health
54 shall publish the advisory on its website in a clear and
55 concise manner and maintain a dedicated telephone number to
56 provide information related to the advisory.



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57 (b) (1) The State Health Officer shall establish an
58 advisory panel to provide recommendations on how best to
59 analyze, develop, and implement the issuance of fish
60 consumption advisories.

61 (2) The panel shall consist of, in a number to be
62 determined by the State Health Officer, representatives from
63 the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama
64 Department of Environmental Management, the Department of
65 Conservation and Natural Resources, and any other agency,
66 business, nongovernmental organization, or individual the
67 State Health Officer determines to be necessary.

68 (3) The panel shall meet at least annually and consider
69 tissue sampling methodologies, water bodies and fish species
70 to be sampled, pollutant toxicity limits, strategies for
71 communicating consumption advisories to the public, and any
72 other subjects relevant to the issuance of fish consumption
73 advisories.

74 Section 4. The Alabama Department of Environmental
75 Management, in consultation with the Alabama Department of
76 Public Health, shall conduct periodic fish tissue monitoring
77 to evaluate safe consumption levels of fishes. The Alabama
78 Department of Environmental Management shall annually publish
79 a report on its website, which shall be made available for
80 public comment, detailing and identifying the methodology and
81 reasoning for evaluating the species and pollutants chosen.

82 Section 5. The Alabama Department of Environmental
83 Management shall post signage at any public boat ramp adjacent
84 to state waters with an active fish consumption advisory



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85 providing notice of all active fish consumption advisories in
86 that body of water. The signage shall include a telephone
87 number for the department and an Internet address and quick
88 responses code for a website from which to obtain information
89 about fish consumption advisories, water quality, and water
90 discharge permits. The Alabama Department of Environmental
91 Management may work with any other state agency, political
92 subdivision of this state, nongovernmental organization,
93 private corporation, or other entity to implement this
94 subsection.

95 Section 6. The Department of Conservation and Natural
96 Resources shall provide an Internet address from which all
97 active fish consumption advisories may be accessed with each
98 issuance of an electronic fishing license.

99 Section 7. This act shall become effective June 1,
100 2024.