



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Rachel May

## Senator Rachel May's Bill to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms Passes Senate with Unanimous Support

DAN MESSINEO May 13, 2024

| ISSUE: **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS), CLEAN DRINKING WATER; ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



The Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention (HABMAP) Act safeguards our freshwater resources and protects public and environmental health.

Senator Rachel May's (Syracuse, Cayuga County) Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention Act [S8356](#), which would create a clearinghouse to collect and distribute critical data about harmful algal blooms, unanimously passed the Senate.

The HABMAP Act is a first-of-its-kind resource in New York designed to address harmful algal blooms (HABs). It creates a comprehensive platform for reporting and dealing with HABs, including data on potential and known causes, best practices, expertise, and funding resources. The collected data will be utilized to administer a grant program that supports data-driven best practices in preventing and mitigating HABs.

Harmful Algal Blooms are increasingly common in the state, with 1,053 occurrences in 204 water bodies reported by the DEC in 2022. However, underreporting suggests the actual number may be much higher.

The HABMAP Act empowers municipalities to tackle the ever-present danger of algal blooms in our freshwater resources. By implementing this act, we can ensure the health of New Yorkers, keep our lakes clean for recreational activities, and preserve our freshwater for future generations.

*q*

*“Our state's freshwater resources are the envy of the world, but they are increasingly vulnerable to pollution and the effects of a warming climate. Every season, toxic algal blooms plague many New York lakes, causing a potentially dangerous situation for residents who depend on lakes for drinking water or use them for recreation,” said **Senator Rachel May**.*

*“The HABMAP Act will help state and local governments understand, identify, and manage threats to our water while maintaining the high quality of life that residents, employers, recreational boaters, fishing enthusiasts, and tourists from around the world have come to expect. I am grateful to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins for bringing this bill forward and to Assemblymember Anna Kelles for her partnership in writing this important legislation.”*

*h*

---

## RELATED LEGISLATION

---

### 2023-S8356

---

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
- 

Enacts the "harmful algal bloom monitoring and prevention act"

January 22, 2024

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by Rachel May

Do you support this bill?

NAY