

## 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



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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

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