

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 259
Version:	FA1
Request Number:	
Author:	Cox
Date:	4/26/2012
Impact:	OTRD - \$0, DEQ - \$0, OWRB - \$0, ODH - .09 per page

Research Analysis

Floor amendment 1 to SB 259 deletes the language in the committee substitute and requires the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Dept. to develop and maintain a website for the public to check the water quality of recreational bodies of water managed by state or federal entities. The website must be made available to the public by Dec. 31, 2012. The measure requires the managing entity to post signs at major access points to the body of water stating that information on water quality is available on the website. It also requires the managing entity to only issue advisories for blue-green algae when both the count and toxicity testing results exceed the World Health Organization guidelines for moderate probability of health effects (100,000 cells per ml and 20 micrograms per L). It requires testing to be done at predetermined locations which are published along with the testing results. The managing entity must lift the advisory if the count and toxicity testing results are below the specified guidelines for two consecutive tests taken at weekly intervals within 30 calendar days of each other. The managing entity also must recognize publicly and privately funded research if it is scientifically verifiable and ensures the public is more informed. The measure also requires the State Dept. of Health to provide educational material on the effects and symptoms of exposure to blue-green algae to physicians, hospital personnel and local health departments.

Prepared By: Robin McAlister

Fiscal Analysis

FA1 for SB 259 directs the Tourism Department to put on a website the condition of state lakes as it relates to blue-green algae. It directs the Department of Health to provide educational material to physicians and hospitals about the effects of blue-green algae and directs state water agencies issue advisories on blue-green algae. According to officials at these agencies, all of the requirements of the amendment could be implemented with existing resources, with the exception of \$.09 per page printing costs to the Department of Health. The total cost of printing is not estimable at this time.

Prepared By: Mark Nichols

Other Considerations

None

