## U71YGG-1: 5/3/2023: MG 1ST HEALTHCARE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB105 OFFERED BY SENATOR COLEMAN-MADISON



8 SYNOPSIS:

9 This bill would require the State Health Officer to
10 issue an advisory regarding the consumption of fish
11 when deemed appropriate.

This bill would require the State Health Officer to establish a panel to consider and advise upon fish consumption advisories.

This bill would require the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to regularly evaluate fish species for pollutants.

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

This bill would also require the Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources to notify fishing

license purchasers of active fish consumption

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advisories.

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29 A BILL

30 TO BE ENTITLED

31 AN ACT

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Relating to consumption of fishes; to require the 33 34 State Health Officer to issue advisories concerning 35 fish consumption and to establish a panel to advise on and discuss this issue; to require the Alabama 36 37 Department of Environmental Management to test fishes for pollutants and post signage at water bodies 38 notifying of an active fish consumption advisory; and 39 40 to require the Department of Conservation and Natural 41 Resources to notify fish license purchasers of all active advisories. 42

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 of 2023.

Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares the

47 following:

(1) That outdoor recreation, including catching,

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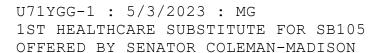
cooking, and eating fish is a fundamental way of life
for countless residents of this state.

- (2) That all Alabamians should have the right to know whether it is safe to consume the fish they catch.
- (3) That outdoor recreation-related illnesses stemming from contact with polluted waters and contaminated fish pose a severe public health risk to the people of Alabama.

Section 3. (a) The State Health Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Alabama

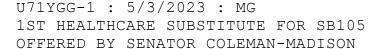
Department of Environmental Management, shall issue a fish consumption advisory when it is reasonable and necessary to protect public health and well-being. The Alabama Department of Public Health shall publish the advisory on its website in a clear and concise manner and maintain a dedicated telephone number to provide information related to the advisory.

(b) The State Health Officer shall establish an advisory panel to analyze, develop, and implement the fish consumption advisory program. The panel shall consist of, in a number to be determined by the State Health Officer, representatives from the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Department of





73 Conservation and Natural Resources, and any other 74 agency, business, nongovernmental organization, or 75 individual the State Health Officer determines 76 appropriate. The panel shall meet at least annually and consider tissue sampling methodologies, water 77 78 bodies and fish species to be sampled, pollutant 79 toxicity limits, strategies for communicating 80 consumption advisories to the public, and any other 81 subjects relevant to the program. 82 Section 4. The Alabama Department of Environmental 83 Management, in consultation with the Alabama Department of Public Health, shall conduct regular 84 fish tissue monitoring to evaluate safe consumption 85 levels of fish species. The Alabama Department of 86 87 Environmental Management shall annually publish a 88 report on its website, which shall be made available 89 for public comment, detailing and identifying the 90 methodology and reasoning for evaluating the species and pollutants chosen. 91 92 Section 5. The Alabama Department of Environmental 93 Management shall post signage at any public boat ramp 94 adjacent to state waters with an active fish consumption advisory notifying the public of this 95 fact. The signage shall include a telephone number for 96





97 the department, an Internet address, and a quick response code for a website from which to obtain 98 99 information about fish consumption advisories, water 100 quality, and water discharge permits. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management may consult 101 102 with other state agencies, political subdivisions of 103 the state, nongovernmental organizations, private 104 corporations, or any other organization to implement this subsection. 105 106 Section 6. The Department of Conservation and Natural 107 Resources, with each issuance of an electronic fishing license, shall notify the licensee of current fish 108 consumption advisories by providing an Internet 109 address to access all active advisories online. 110 Section 7. This act shall become effective immediately 111 112 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or 113 its otherwise becoming law.