OVERVIEW: Section 8.18 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 2.17 of S.L. 2022-6, directs the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory (Collaboratory) to evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of an approved in situ treatment of the nutrient impaired surface waters in lakes and reservoirs on cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms. The Collaboratory must provide the results of this study to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, and to various other entities, no later than April 1, 2025.

Furthermore, this section directs State agencies, upon consideration of bids and proposals to remediate or prevent cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms in North Carolina waters, to consider eleven enumerated specifications when determining which vendors ought to receive preference for government contracts.

This section became effective July 1, 2021.