

SUPPORT HJ 527

Invasive Plant Species Study

Bill Patron: Delegate Bulova

Reasons to support HJ 527:

This study would allow for the exploration of options for phasing out the propagation and sale of invasive plants in Virginia's horticultural industry.

Virginia's noxious weed law regulates the movement of certain plants. However, if the plant is commercially viable or commercially propagated in Virginia, it cannot be listed as a noxious weed. This allows for an invasive plant to continue to be sold even after it has been identified as harmful to the environment, economy and/or human health.

Landowners, localities, and our state and federal government spends millions of dollars a year controlling invasive plants in Virginia. These costs will continue to grow so long as invasive plant species continue to be sold and planted in the commonwealth.

Overview:

The Virginia Department of Conservation (DCR) lists 90 invasive plants that “pose a threat to Virginia's forests, native grasslands, wetlands or waterways”, **and many of them are for sale at your local garden center.** Invasive plants are plants that originate from outside a region and cause damage to the environment, economy, and/or human health after their introduction to a new area. Invasive plants outcompete native plants, adversely impact wildlife habitat and have no native controls. The damage invasive plants cause can be greatly lessened if their sale was reduced and/or prohibited.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.