

2026 -- H 7071

LC003172

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- PROTECTION OF TREES AND
PLANTS GENERALLY -- RHODE ISLAND INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Boylan, Bennett, Kislak, Santucci, McGaw, Carson,
Speakman, Spears, Donovan, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: January 14, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2-15 of the General Laws entitled "Protection of Trees and Plants
Generally" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

2-15-5.1. Terrestrial invasive plants — Prohibition on importation.

(a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, or purchase, in
the state any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants, as defined by the director. The director
shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability. The
prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective until the rules and regulations governing
the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

(b) Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred
dollars (\$500).

(c) The director shall maintain a listing of all prohibited plants pursuant to this section
together with a listing of all prohibited aquatic plants pursuant to § 20-1-26.

SECTION 2. Section 20-1-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-1 entitled "General
Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**20-1-26. Freshwater invasive aquatic plants — Prohibition on importation and
possession.**

(a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, purchase, or
possess in the state any species of non-native (exotic) freshwater invasive aquatic plants, as defined

1 by the director. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the prohibition and
2 its applicability. The prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective until the rules and
3 regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

4 (b) Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred
5 dollars (\$500).

6 [\(c\) The director shall maintain a listing of all prohibited plants pursuant to this section](#)
7 [together with a listing of all prohibited terrestrial plants pursuant to § 2-15-5.1.](#)

8 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- PROTECTION OF TREES AND
PLANTS GENERALLY -- RHODE ISLAND INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ACT

- 1 This act would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or
2 purchase, of any species of non-native (exotic) terrestrial invasive plants.
3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2027.

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