

2026 -- H 7071 SUBSTITUTE A

LC003172/SUB A

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:

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

3 **2-15-5.1. Terrestrial invasive plants — Prohibition on importation.**

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

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

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

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

15 **20-1-26. Freshwater invasive aquatic plants — Prohibition on importation and**  
16 **possession.**

17 (a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, purchase, or  
18 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

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

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