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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - GENERAL PROVISION

Introduced By: Representatives Keable, Lally, Petrarca, Walsh, and E Coderre

Date Introduced: February 16, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **20-1-26. Freshwater invasive aquatic plants -- Prohibition on importation and**
4 **possession. --** (a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, purchase,
5 or possess in the state any species of non-native (exotic) freshwater invasive aquatic plants, as
6 defined by the director. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the
7 prohibition and its applicability. The prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective
8 until the rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

9 (b) Violations of this section shall be ~~a misdemeanor,~~ punishable by a fine of not more
10 than five hundred dollars (\$500) ~~or imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both.~~

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would provide that anyone violating the prohibition on importation and
2 possession of freshwater invasive aquatic plants would be subject to a fine and deletes the
3 provision of the general laws which declared that such prohibited possession would be a
4 misdemeanor.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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