

2026 -- S 2352

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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: Senators McKenney, Britto, Gu, Urso, and Vargas

Date Introduced: January 30, 2026

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, or purchase, in
5 the state any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants, as defined by the director. The director
6 shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability. The
7 prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective until the rules and regulations governing
8 the prohibition 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

- 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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