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LC004299

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**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

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- 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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