

1 H.701

2 Introduced by Representative Lippert of Hinesburg

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Institutions; state buildings; invasive plants

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to phase out the use of invasive
7 plants in ornamental plantings on state grounds, encourage the use of native
8 plants in decorative plantings on state grounds, and encourage the department
9 of buildings and general services to purchase plants from Vermont-owned
10 businesses.

11 An act relating to invasive plants on state grounds

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 159a is added to read:

14 § 159a. ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS ON STATE GROUNDS; INVASIVE

15 PLANTS

16 (a) Definitions. In this section:

17 (1) "Native" means a plant that is known historically to grow outside of
18 cultivation in Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
19 or New York, as indicated by the United States Department of Agriculture
20 Natural Resources Conservation Services PLANTS Database.

1 (2) “Invasive Plant” includes:

2 (A) an alien species nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration
3 whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the economy,
4 environment, or human health.

5 (B) any plant that is prohibited in a state adjoining Vermont.

6 (C) any plant included by the agency of agriculture, food and markets
7 under its noxious weed quarantine rule, including “A”, “B”, and “Watch List”
8 plants.

9 (3) “State grounds” means land maintained by the department of
10 buildings and general services.

11 (b) The commissioner of buildings and general services shall:

12 (1) ensure that no new invasive plants are planted on state grounds.

13 (2) provide a list of invasive plants annually to his or her site
14 supervisors.

15 (3) prepare a separate plan for each property to remove invasive plants
16 from it and to replace them with safer alternatives. This plan shall be
17 completed by January 15, 2015 and presented to the general assembly. In
18 replacing invasive plants, the commissioner shall encourage the use of natives
19 and plants purchased from Vermont businesses whenever possible.

20 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.