

Chapter 246

(House Bill 515)

AN ACT concerning

Agriculture – ~~Noxious Weeds~~ – Palmer Amaranth – Study

FOR the purpose of ~~adding Palmer amaranth to the list of plants considered to be noxious weeds in the State~~ requiring the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to assess the adverse financial impact of Palmer amaranth on the agricultural industry in the State and to determine the necessary actions certain persons must take to reduce the impact and the costs of the actions; requiring the Department to consult with certain persons in conducting the study and to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to invasive weed control in the State.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Agriculture
Section 9-401
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the ~~Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article – Agriculture~~~~9-401.~~

- ~~(a) The existence of growth of certain species of plants is declared to be noxious.~~
- ~~(b) The following plants are considered to be noxious weeds in the State:~~
 - ~~(1) Thistles belonging to the asteraceae or compositae family, including Canada, musk, nodding, plumelless, and bull thistle;~~
 - ~~(2) Johnsongrass (sorghum halepense) or hybrids that contain Johnsongrass as a parent; [and]~~
 - ~~(3) Shatter cane and wild cane (sorghum bicolor); AND~~
 - ~~(4) PALMER AMARANTH (AMARANTHUS PALMERI S. WATSON).~~
- (a) The Department of Agriculture shall conduct a study to:

(1) assess the adverse financial impact of the invasive weed Palmer amaranth on the agricultural industry in the State; and

(2) determine the necessary actions each stakeholder must take to reduce the impact of Palmer amaranth and the cost of each action.

(b) In conducting the study, the Department shall consult with representatives of:

(1) the State Highway Administration;

(2) the Maryland Farm Bureau;

(3) soil conservation districts;

(4) the Maryland Association of Counties;

(5) the Maryland Grain Producers; and

(6) any other interested stakeholder, as determined by the Department.

(c) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.