



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 137**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 5013

*House of Representatives, March 19, 2025*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT ADDING CERTAIN PLANTS TO THE INVASIVE PLANTS LIST.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22a-381d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
4 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
5 municipality, no person shall import, move, sell, purchase, transplant,  
6 cultivate or distribute any of the following invasive plants: (1) Curly  
7 leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*); (2) fanwort (*Cabomba*  
8 *caroliniana*); (3) eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*); (4)  
9 variable water milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*); (5) water  
10 chestnut (*Trapa natans*); (6) egeria (*Egeria densa*); (7) hydrilla (*Hydrilla*  
11 *verticillata*); (8) common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*); (9) autumn olive  
12 (*Elaeagnus umbellata*); (10) Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera xbella*); (11)  
13 amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*); (12) Morrow's honeysuckle  
14 (*Lonicera morrowii*); (13) common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*);

15 (14) multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*); (15) Oriental bittersweet  
16 (*Celastrus orbiculatus*); (16) garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*); (17)  
17 narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*); (18) spotted knapweed  
18 (*Centaurea biebersteinii*); (19) black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum*  
19 *louiseae*); (20) pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*); (21) leafy  
20 spurge (*Euphorbia esula*); (22) Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*); (23)  
21 perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*); (24) Japanese knotweed  
22 (*Polygonum cuspidatum*); (25) mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum*  
23 *perfoliatum*); (26) fig buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*); (27) coltsfoot  
24 (*Tussilago farfara*); (28) Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*);  
25 (29) common reed (*Phragmites australis*); (30) sycamore maple (*Acer*  
26 *pseudoplatanus*); (31) princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*); (32) white  
27 poplar (*Populus alba*); (33) false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*); (34)  
28 Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*); (35) wineberry (*Rubus*  
29 *phoenicolasius*); (36) kudzu (*Pueraria montana*); (37) Canada thistle  
30 (*Cirsium arvense*); (38) jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*); (39) crested  
31 late-summer mint (*Elsholtzia ciliata*); (40) Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia*  
32 *cyparissias*); (41) slender snake cotton (*Froelichia gracilis*); (42) ground  
33 ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*); (43) giant hogweed (*Heracleum*  
34 *mantegazzianum*); (44) Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*); (45)  
35 ornamental jewelweed (*Impatiens glanulifera*); (46) common kochia  
36 (*Kochia scoparia*); (47) ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*); (48) Scotch  
37 thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*); (49) bristle knotweed (*Polygonum*  
38 *caespitosum*); (50) giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*); (51)  
39 sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*); (52) ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*); (53)  
40 cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*); (54) bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum*  
41 *dulcamara*); (55) garden heliotrope (*Valeriana officinalis*); (56) hairy  
42 jointgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*); (57) drooping brome-grass (*Bromus*  
43 *tectorum*); (58) Japanese sedge (*Carex kobomugi*); (59) reed managrass  
44 (*Glyceria maxima*); (60) Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*); [and] (61)  
45 tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*); and (62) star of Bethlehem  
46 (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*).

47 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
48 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
49 municipality, on or after October 1, 2005, no person shall import, move,

50 sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute any of the following  
51 invasive plants: (A) Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); (B) forget-  
52 me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*); (C) Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera*  
53 *japonica*); (D) goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraia*); (E) flowering rush  
54 (*Butomus umbellatus*); (F) pond water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*);  
55 (G) European waterclover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*); (H) parrotfeather  
56 (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*); (I) brittle water-nymph (*Najas minor*); (J)  
57 American water lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*); (K) yellow floating heart  
58 (*Nymphoides peltata*); (L) onerow yellowcress (*Rorippa microphylla*);  
59 (M) watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), except for watercress  
60 sold for human consumption without its reproductive structure; (N)  
61 giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*); (O) yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*); (P)  
62 border privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*); (Q) tatarian honeysuckle  
63 (*Lonicera tatarica*); (R) dwarf honeysuckle (*Lonicera xylosteum*); and (S)  
64 garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*).

65 (2) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
66 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
67 municipality, on or after October 1, 2024, no person shall import, move,  
68 sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute any of the following  
69 invasive plants: (A) Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), (B)  
70 mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), (C) quackgrass (*Elymus repens*), (D)  
71 Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*), (E) Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria*  
72 *floribunda*), and (F) Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*).

73 (3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
74 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
75 municipality, on or after October 1, 2027, no person shall import, move,  
76 sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute callery pear (*Pyrus*  
77 *calleryana*).

78 (4) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
79 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
80 municipality, on or after October 1, 2028, no person shall import, move,  
81 sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute any of the following  
82 invasive plants: (A) Glossy buckthorn (*frangula alnus*), (B) European

83 buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica), (C) reed canary grass (Phalaris  
 84 arundinacea), (D) winged euonymus (Euonymus alatus), (E) European  
 85 privet (Ligustrum vulgare), (F) black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), (G)  
 86 miscanthus (Miscanthus sinensis), and (H) Japanese barberry (Berberis  
 87 thunbergii).

88 (5) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and  
 89 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
 90 municipality, on or after October 1, 2030, no person shall import, move,  
 91 sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute Norway maple (Acer  
 92 platanoides).

93 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and  
 94 notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a  
 95 municipality, no person shall move, import, sell, purchase, transplant,  
 96 cultivate or distribute any reproductive portion of any invasive plant  
 97 listed in subsection (a) or (b) of this section. For the purposes of this  
 98 section, "reproductive portion" includes, but is not limited to, seeds,  
 99 flowers, roots and tubers.

100 (d) The provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section  
 101 shall not apply to the moving for eradication, research or educational  
 102 purposes of any invasive plant listed in subsection (a) or (b) of this  
 103 section or of any reproductive portion of such an invasive plant or to the  
 104 cultivating for research purposes of any such plant or reproductive  
 105 portion.

106 (e) [From July 1, 2009, until October 1, 2014, no] No municipality shall  
 107 adopt any ordinance regarding the retail sale or purchase of any  
 108 invasive plant.

109 (f) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be  
 110 fined not more than one hundred dollars per plant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	22a-381d

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (b)(4)(A), "almus" was changed to "alnus", for accuracy.

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill adds various plants, over a number of years, to the invasive plant list and also prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances on the sale or purchase of invasive plants. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. Although violators of the bill's provisions will be subject to fines, no violations and therefore no revenue gain is expected.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5013*****AN ACT ADDING CERTAIN PLANTS TO THE INVASIVE PLANTS LIST.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances on the retail sale or purchase of invasive plants. It also adds, over a series of years, 10 plants to the list of invasive or potentially invasive plants that are generally banned in the state. By law, a violator is subject to a fine of up to \$100 per plant.

Specifically, the bill prohibits anyone, regardless of any municipal ordinance, from importing; moving (except for eradication, research, or educational purposes); selling; purchasing; transplanting; cultivating (except for research purposes); or distributing the following plants or their reproductive portions (e.g., seeds, flowers, roots, tubers):

1. beginning on the bill's passage, the star of Bethlehem;
2. beginning October 1, 2028, the Glossy buckthorn, European buckthorn, reed canary grass, winged euonymus, European privet, black locust, miscanthus, and Japanese barberry; and
3. beginning October 1, 2030, the Norway maple.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35    Nay 0    (02/28/2025)