

HOUSE BILL NO. 47

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

on February 16, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Seibold)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to invasive plant species; retail sales; civil penalty.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-104.6:2. Invasive plant species; civil penalty.

A. The Department shall create a list of invasive plant species no later than January 1, 2024, and shall update such list at least every four years thereafter.

B. No agency of the Commonwealth shall plant, sell, or propagate any plant on the list of invasive plants established in subsection A except when doing so is necessary for scientific or educational purposes or bona fide agricultural purposes including the management, tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural products.

C. No retail establishment shall sell or offer for retail sale for outdoor use a plant that is on the list of invasive plants pursuant to subsection A unless such retail establishment posts, in a conspicuous manner on the property at all public entrances, a sign identifying such plant as invasive that includes the words "This facility sells invasive plant species that may cause environmental harm. Ask about alternatives."

D. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall designate the format and content of the sign, including a requirement that such sign (i) provide a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and a QR code directing to such URL for the Department's list established in subsection A, (ii) is at least 11 inches by 17 inches, and (iii) is written in black font on a yellow background, as required by subsection C no later than October 1, 2024. If the Commissioner finds that a plant for sale for outdoor use that is on the list of invasive plants pursuant to subsection A does not meet the signage requirements of subsection

27 C, the Commissioner shall (i) issue a stop sale order for such plant and (ii) mark or tag such plant in a
28 conspicuous manner. The Commissioner shall give written notice of a finding made under this subsection
29 to the owner, tenant, or person in charge of the retail establishment. A stop sale order issued under this
30 subsection shall remain in effect until the required signage is posted.

31 E. Any retail establishment that violates the provisions of subsection C or any subsequent order
32 by the Commissioner related to such subsection is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.

33 #