



**HB0979/323327/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

28 FEB 24  
11:43:13

BY: Delegate Foley

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 979

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 11, after “assessments” insert “and data”; and in line 12, after “manner;” insert “requiring the Committee to review the qualifications of a qualified independent assessor;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 7, strike “**EXTENSIVE**” and substitute “AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF”; and in line 29, strike “**AND**”.

On page 5, in line 1, strike “**REVIEW**” and substitute “(I) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, REVIEW THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR; AND

(II) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY ANY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR;

(4) REVIEW”;

and in line 4, after “**SPECIES**” insert “; AND

(5) (I) REVIEW ANY DATA SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT INDICATES A CULTIVAR, SELECTION, OR INFRA-SPECIFIC HYBRID OF A PROHIBITED INVASIVE PLANT IS NOT INVASIVE; AND

**(II) IF THE DATA SUBMITTED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM IS DEEMED ACCURATE AND SUFFICIENT, ADVISE THE SECRETARY TO DECLASSIFY OR PREEMPTIVELY NOT CLASSIFY THE CULTIVAR, SELECTION, OR INFRA-SPECIFIC HYBRID AS A PROHIBITED INVASIVE PLANT**".

On page 6, in line 17, after "Areas" insert "**IF THE PLANT IS ASSESSED AS AN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION**".

On page 8, in line 19, strike "OR TIER 2"; after line 20, insert:

**"(B) EACH TERRESTRIAL PLANT CLASSIFIED BY REGULATION BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, AS A TIER 2 INVASIVE PLANT SHALL BE ASSESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9.5-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND SHALL BE:**

**(1) IF THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT DETERMINE THE PLANT IS AN INVASIVE PLANT, CLASSIFIED AS A PROHIBITED INVASIVE PLANT UNDER THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER § 9.5-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR**

**(2) IF THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT DETERMINE THE PLANT IS NOT AN INVASIVE PLANT, PLACED ON THE WATCH LIST.**";

and in lines 21 and 25, strike "(B)" and "(C)", respectively, and substitute "**(C)**" and "**(D)**", respectively.