

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1438 (Delegate Clagett)
Environmental Matters

Noxious Weed - Purple Loosestrife

This bill designates purple loosestrife as a noxious weed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate expenditure increase. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate expenditure increase. No effect on revenues.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) reports that adding purple loosestrife to the list of designated noxious weeds would require it to develop and conduct a regulatory program designed to control or eradicate purple loosestrife. This would cost approximately \$36,000 in fiscal 1997 due to the need for a contractual position, vehicle operations, herbicides, informational materials, and spraying equipment. Conversely, funding could be reallocated from other noxious weed programs.

However, the Department of Fiscal Services advises that unless the chemicals or equipment required is significantly different from that needed for other noxious weeds, adding purple loosestrife to the control and eradication programs should be absorbable within existing resources without any major effect on other weed programs. The development of the specifics of the program is within MDA's authority; a less ambitious program than is reflected in MDA's estimate could be adopted. It should also be noted that adding a noxious weed designation does not require a control or eradication program to be implemented, but rather authorizes such action.

Local Effect: Funding for noxious weed control programs are traditionally done through a

50:50 cost share basis with 20 of the 23 counties. However, as discussed above, this legislation should not significantly increase local expenditures on these functions.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 1996
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