
By: **Delegate Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Phragmites - Biennial Reports**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to determine the
4 spread of phragmites on a per-acre basis and to prepare biennial reports on the
5 extent of infestation; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally
6 relating to the management and control of phragmites in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Natural Resources
9 Section 8-2101 and 8-2103
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 8-2101.

16 The General Assembly finds that the growth of the tall, reed-like grass
17 Phragmites communis, commonly known as phragmites, may be a public and common
18 nuisance on land and wetlands used for wildlife habitat areas. THEREFORE, IT IS THE
19 INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THIS SUBTITLE REQUIRE THAT
20 STATEWIDE STUDIES OF PHRAGMITES BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ITS
21 SPREAD AND DETERMINE ANY PROGRESS MADE IN CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND
22 CONTROL PROGRAMS.

1 8-2103.

2 (a) (1) The Department shall study and analyze the effectiveness of the cost
3 sharing program in the Department that assists landowners in paying for the cost of
4 the management and control of the spread of phragmites.

5 (2) The analysis required in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
6 include information on how assistance under the cost sharing program is allocated.

7 (b) The Department of Natural Resources SHALL ASCERTAIN ON A PER-ACRE
8 BASIS THE STATEWIDE EXTENT OF INFESTATION OF PHRAGMITES AND shall study
9 and analyze the progress made in the management and control of the spread of
10 phragmites on:

11 (1) Lands that the Department of Natural Resources owns or controls;
12 and

13 (2) Any real property on which the Department of Natural Resources
14 assists landowners with the control of phragmites.

15 (c) (1) The Department shall annually submit a report under subsections (a)
16 and (b) of this section to:

17 [(1)] (I) The Environmental Matters Committee of the House of
18 Delegates of Maryland; and

19 [(2)] (II) The Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee of the
20 Senate of Maryland.

21 (2) BEGINNING IN 2000, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BIENNIALY SUBMIT
22 A REPORT ON THE EXTENT OF INFESTATION OF PHRAGMITES ON A PER-ACRE BASIS
23 TO:

24 (I) THE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE
25 OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND; AND

26 (II) THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
27 OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1998.

