

# HOUSE BILL 515

M4

8lr3137

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By: **Delegates Ghrist, Adams, Arentz, Jacobs, and Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – ~~Noxious Weeds~~ – Palmer Amaranth – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~adding Palmer amaranth to the list of plants considered to be noxious~~  
4 ~~weeds in the State~~ requiring the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to  
5 assess the adverse financial impact of Palmer amaranth on the agricultural industry  
6 in the State and to determine the necessary actions certain persons must take to  
7 reduce the impact and the costs of the actions; requiring the Department to consult  
8 with certain persons in conducting the study and to submit a certain report to the  
9 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally  
10 relating to invasive weed control in the State.

11 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
12 ~~Article – Agriculture~~  
13 ~~Section 9-401~~  
14 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
15 ~~(2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)~~

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

18 ~~Article – Agriculture~~

19 ~~9-401.~~

20 (a) ~~The existence of growth of certain species of plants is declared to be noxious.~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1        ~~(b) The following plants are considered to be noxious weeds in the State:~~

2            ~~(1) Thistles belonging to the asteraceae or compositae family, including~~  
3 ~~Canada, musk, nodding, plumeloss, and bull thistle;~~

4            ~~(2) Johnsongrass (sorghum halepense) or hybrids that contain~~  
5 ~~Johnsongrass as a parent; [and]~~

6            ~~(3) Shatter cane and wild cane (sorghum bicolor); AND~~

7            ~~(4) PALMER AMARANTH (AMARANTHUS PALMERI S. WATSON).~~

8        (a) The Department of Agriculture shall conduct a study to:

9            (1) assess the adverse financial impact of the invasive weed Palmer  
10 amaranth on the agricultural industry in the State; and

11            (2) determine the necessary actions each stakeholder must take to reduce  
12 the impact of Palmer amaranth and the cost of each action.

13        (b) In conducting the study, the Department shall consult with representatives  
14 of:

15            (1) the State Highway Administration;

16            (2) the Maryland Farm Bureau;

17            (3) soil conservation districts;

18            (4) the Maryland Association of Counties;

19            (5) the Maryland Grain Producers; and

20            (6) any other interested stakeholder, as determined by the Department.

21        (c) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department shall report its findings and  
22 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
23 Government Article, the General Assembly.

24        SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.