



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: January 28, 2021

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 92

SHORT TITLE: Procurement - Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds

MDA POSITION: Information

House Bill 92 would prohibit state funds from being used to purchase or plant invasive or nonnative plant species for public projects by state agencies. The bill specifies a waiver process if there are no other options.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is required to maintain a list of native plant species that state agencies may use for planting. HB 92 references the native plant species listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed brochure as the best list for native plants for planting. MDA has this brochure readily available and can provide it to any agency that requests it with or without legislative action.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.