

# ENROLLED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 2024

BILL No. 2024-08

Introduced: September 17, 2024

BY: The Council President

AN ACT TO ADD CHAPTER 163 OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY CODE, TITLED "INVASIVE BAMBOO CONTROL ACT" TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON CONTROLLING INVASIVE BAMBOO.

WHEREAS, controlling invasive bamboo species is crucial for environmental conservation and maintaining ecological balance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1-1318 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, local governments are authorized to regulate invasive bamboo; and

WHEREAS, the County Council desires to establish regulations on controlling invasive bamboo.

SECTION 1: BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION, that Chapter 163, titled, "Invasive Bamboo Control Act" shall be established as follows:

## CHAPTER 163 INVASIVE BAMBOO CONTROL ACT

### §163-1. DEFINITIONS.

AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANING INDICATED:

INVASIVE BAMBOO

ANY BAMBOO SPECIES FROM THE GENUS PHYLLOSTACHYS.

PERSON

ANY NATURAL PERSON, FIRM, CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, ORGANIZATION OR GROUP, HOWEVER ORGANIZED.

### §163-2 PROHIBITION.

- A. NO PERSON SHALL SELL INVASIVE BAMBOO.
- B. NO PERSON SHALL PLANT INVASIVE BAMBOO.

### §163-3 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE.

- A. PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DANGERS OF INVASIVE BAMBOO SPECIES. THIS CAMPAIGN SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF INVASIVE BAMBOO, THE

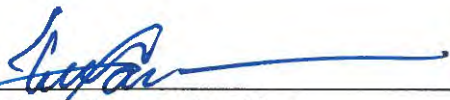
IMPORTANCE OF USING NATIVE OR NON-INVASIVE PLANTS, AND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS LEGISLATION.

- B. DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS, INCLUDING THE COUNTY'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, AND PRINTED MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED AT COUNTY OFFICES AND PUBLIC EVENTS.
- C. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL NURSERIES AND GARDEN CENTERS. THE COUNTY SHALL WORK WITH LOCAL NURSERIES, GARDEN CENTERS, AND OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESSES TO EDUCATE CUSTOMERS ABOUT INVASIVE BAMBOO SPECIES AND ENCOURAGE THE SALE OF NATIVE OR NON-INVASIVE ALTERNATIVES.

SECTION II: BE IT ENACTED that this Legislative Bill shall be known 2024-08 of Wicomico County, Maryland, and shall take effect sixty (60) days after its final passage, unless a proper Petition for Referendum thereof shall be filed prior to said date; in which event, the Bill shall not take effect until the expiration of thirty (30) days following the approval of this Bill by a majority of the qualified voters of Wicomico County voting in any such referendum.


Certified correct as passed and adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
BY: John T. Cannon, President

  
BY: Laura Hurley, Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of the above Bill are available to the public, the press and other news media at the time of its introduction.

  
Laura Hurley, Secretary

Explanation:

~~Strike Out~~ indicates matters deleted from existing law,

CAPITALS INDICATE MATTERS ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

~~CAPITAL STRIKE OUT~~ indicates matter stricken from Bill by Amendment.

Underlining indicates Amendments to Bill.

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 21

**LEGISLATIVE BILL NO. 2024-08**

**INTRODUCED BY:** The Council President.

AN ACT TO ADD CHAPTER 163 OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY CODE, TITLED "INVASIVE BAMBOO CONTROL ACT" TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON CONTROLLING INVASIVE BAMBOO.

Introduced and read first time on September 17, 2024. Ordered posted and public hearing scheduled for October 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

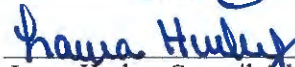
**PUBLIC HEARING:** Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing held on October 15, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

**CERTIFICATION:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this Bill was Approved and Adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

Presented to the County Executive for approval this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November at 9:15 a.m. (5 days §411)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

**BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

APPROVED  
Date: 11/6/2024  
(21 days §411)

VETOED  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BY THE COUNCIL:**

Option One: This Bill, having been approved by the County Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on November 6, 2024 and effective on: January 6, 2025.  
(60 days §311)

Option Two: This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the County Executive with 21 days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes effective on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(60 days §311)

Option Three: This Bill, being exempt from the Executive Veto stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes effective on \_\_\_\_\_. (Charter Section 305)

**ENROLLMENT:** Legislative Bill No. 2024-08 is herewith submitted to the County Council of Wicomico County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

  
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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator