



Legislation Summary:

An Act responding to the threat of invasive species

Bill numbers: HB890/SB508

Sponsors: Rep. David M. Rogers, Sen. Patricia Jehlen

The LWVMA supports this bill.

This broad policy bill creates a framework for the control and mitigation of invasive species in the commonwealth, both land and marine varieties. The bill establishes and regulates the use of a new Invasive Species Trust Fund, for use by the newly created Invasive Species Advisory Council (unpaid) and the newly created invasive species office in the Department of Agriculture. This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive mechanism to deal with the threats to native species (including the fauna that feed on the flora) caused by the overrunning of land and filling of waterways with invasives. Currently there are essentially no rules about what technically is invasive, nor what can or should be done about them. And no penalties for violation of the very few regulations that do exist. This is a serious threat to our landscapes, a form of living pollution being made worse by climate change. This bill establishes mechanisms to address all of these issues.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. LWVUS, Impact On Issues, p. 13