

SUPPORT HB47 AND SB306

Topic: Invasive plant species, requirements for retail sales

Bill Patrons: Delegate Seibold and Senator Salim

Overview: Requires, for the retail sale of any invasive plant species on a list established by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, that retailers post a sign next to any invasive plants they offer for sale that identifies them as invasive plants that may cause environmental harm.

Reasons to support:

- **Virginia's land and waters are under increasing threat from non-native invasive plant species**, with many of our native plant species being displaced by invasive plant species.
- **State and local governments and private landowners spend millions of dollars a year to control invasive plants**, including tree-killing vines, that are causing harm to natural resources.
- **Virginians who buy plants at retail locations in most cases do not know some are invasive** and cause environmental and financial harm.
- **Invasive plants sold at retail locations, such as Japanese barberry, tree-of-heaven and privet, readily spread** to neighboring properties.
- **Placing signs to identify plants is common practice in garden centers.** A requirement to identify invasive plants will place minimal burden on retailers.
- **This bill will support the customer's right to know about their purchase, help limit future costs of controlling invasive plants, and benefit native plants and animals.**



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