

# SUPPORT HB88

**Topic:** Expand VDOT's role in roadside invasive plant control

**Bill Patron:** Delegate Amy Laufer

## OVERVIEW:

- **Updates the outdated prohibition on planting certain weeds and plants on highways in the Virginia Code (§ 33.2-217) to reflect current law.** The code should reflect that no agency of the Commonwealth may plant any invasives listed on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List (§ 10.1-104.6:2).
- **Establishes a legislative directive for the Commonwealth Transportation Board to develop and maintain an invasive plant management plan for state highway rights-of-way.** Maintaining a plan and budget, including preventive construction and maintenance practices, will reduce the spread of invasive plants and provide a clear picture of funding needs.

## REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- **Roads act as significant pathways for the spread of invasive plants.** Soil disturbed during construction provides habitats that are easily colonized by opportunistic invasives. Seeds and reproducing plant fragments can hitch a ride on vehicles and mowing equipment to move swiftly over long distances from one locality or region to another.
- **Current code-mandated management directives are outdated and overly narrow.** § 33.2-217 directs the Board to “dig up and destroy” three species of plants — one of which is native, and one of which is not listed as invasive in Virginia — this technique is not appropriate for many invasive species.



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