

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, petition of William M. Straus and George N. Peterson, Jr., for legislation to establish an invasive plants technical advisory committee within the Department of Food and Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Definitions.

2 For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the
3 following meanings:

4 "Commissioner" shall mean the Commissioner of the
5 Department of Feed & Agriculture.

6 "Committee" shall mean the Invasive Plants Technical
7 Advisory Committee established in Section 2 of this Act.

8 "Department" shall be defined as the Department of Food and
9 Agriculture.

1 SECTION 2. There is hereby established within the E.O.E.A.
2 an advisory committee which shall be known as the Invasive
3 Plants Technical Advisory Committee. It shall be the responsi-
4 bility of said Committee to oversee and work in the development
5 of a scientifically-based methodology for the identification and
6 control of invasive plant materials.

7 This project shall also include a research based report which
8 details the nature and extent of the presence of invasive plant
9 species in the Commonwealth and recommendations as to mea-
10 sures which may be undertaken to mitigate or control the further
11 spread of such species. This project, subject to appropriation, shall
12 be completed within two years of the effective date of this act.

13 Upon completion of the work described in this Section, the
14 Department shall make copies of this report available to the Joint
15 Chairs of the Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture
16 and to the Clerk of the House and Senate.

1 SECTION 3. The Invasive Plants Technical Advisory
2 Committee described in Section 1 of this Act shall consist of the
3 following members: The Commissioner of the Department of
4 Food and Agriculture or their designee, who shall Chair the
5 Committee; the Commissioner of the Department of Fisheries and
6 Wildlife or their designee; the Dean of the College of Food and
7 Natural Resources at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst or
8 their designee; a representative of the University of Massachusetts
9 Extension; and three members appointed by the Governor, one of
10 whom shall have professional botanical expertise and two
11 of whom shall have been actively engaged in the commercial
12 propagation, sale and installation of plant material in the
13 Commonwealth for at least ten years.