

1 H.465

2 Introduced by Representatives Hooper of Brookfield, Bancroft of Westford,

3 Buckholz of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of

4 Burlington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, and

5 Ode of Burlington

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Agriculture; invasive species; best management practices

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the

10 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets annually to publish an assessment

11 of the impact or effect of invasive species on the agricultural economy. The

12 bill would also require the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to

13 publish best practices that State and municipal agencies or government can

14 implement to control the introduction or spread of invasive species in the State.

15 An act relating to invasive species management

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 1030 is amended to read:

18 § 1030. DEFINITIONS

19 Whenever used or referred to in this chapter, unless a different meaning

20 clearly appears from the context:

(1) "Beneficial organism" means any organism which that, during its life cycle, is an effective pollinator of plants, a parasite or predator of pests, or otherwise beneficial.

4 (2) “Biological control agent” means any living organism applied to or
5 introduced into the environment that is intended to function as a controlling
6 agent against another organism.

7 (3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets,
8 or his or her designee.

9 (4) "Compliance agreement" means a written agreement between the
10 agency Agency and any person engaged in growing, handling, or moving
11 regulated articles, plant pests, plants, parts of plants, or plant products
12 regulated under this chapter, where the person agrees to comply with stipulated
13 requirements.

14 (5) "Agency" means the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and
15 Markets.

16 * * *

17 (11) "Plant and plant products" means trees, shrubs, and vines; forage,
18 fiber, and cereal plants; cuttings, grafts, scions, buds, and lumber; fruit,
19 vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, and wood; and all other plants, parts of plants,
20 and plant products.

1 (12) "Plant pest" means any living stage of: insects, mites, nematodes,
2 slugs, snails, protozoa, or any other invertebrate animals; bacteria, fungi,
3 mycoplasma, or other parasitic plants, weeds or reproductive parts thereof;
4 viruses or any organisms similar to or allied with any of the foregoing; and any
5 genetically modified organisms or biological control agents that may directly
6 or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage to any beneficial organisms,
7 plants, parts of plants, or plant products.

8 * * *

9 (15) "Invasive species" means a non-native plant, animal, insect, fungus,
10 or bacteria that is present in the State or capable of spreading into the State and
11 that poses a threat to the environment, natural resources, public health, or the
12 economy. Invasive species shall include plant pests.

13 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 1041 is added to read:

14 § 1041. INVASIVE SPECIES ASSESSMENT; BEST PRACTICES;

15 REPORT

16 (a) Assessment. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, after
17 consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, annually shall publish an
18 assessment of the impact or effect of invasive species on the agricultural
19 economy. The assessment shall be based upon currently available data.

1 (b) Best practices. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall
2 publish best practices that State and municipal agencies or government can
3 implement to control the introduction or spread of invasive species in the State.

4 (c) Report. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets annually shall
5 submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Senate
6 Committee on Agriculture a report that includes the assessment required under
7 subsection (a) of this section and that summarizes implementation of the best
8 practices published under subsection (b) of this section.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.