



Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

Effective Date: 2/4/2025

Reference No.: CB-072-2024

Chapter Number: 79

Draft No.: 2

Public Hearing Date: 11/19/2024 @ 10:00 AM

Proposer(s): Dernoga

Sponsor(s): Dernoga, Ivey, Hawkins, Harrison, Olson and Watson

Item Title: AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF INVASIVE BAMBOO for the purpose of regulating invasive bamboo, and generally relating to the regulation of invasive bamboo.

Drafter: Reese Espy-Glassman

Resource Personnel: Maria, Josh

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
09/10/2024	County Council	presented and referred	COW
<p>Action Text: This Council Bill was presented by Council Member Dernoga and referred to the Committee of the Whole.</p>			
09/24/2024	COW	Held in Committee	
<p>Action Text: A motion was made by Council Member Dernoga, seconded by Chair Ivey, that this Council Bill be Held in Committee. The motion carried by the following vote: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Aye: 7 Ivey, Dernoga, Blegay, Hawkins, Olson, Oriadha and Watson</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Absent: 3 Harrison, Burroughs and Fisher</p> </p>			
10/15/2024	COW	rescheduled to a later date	
<p>Action Text: This Council Bill was rescheduled to a later date.</p>			
10/22/2024	COW	amended	
<p>Action Text: A motion was made by Council Member Dernoga, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be amended. The motion carried by the following vote: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Aye: 9 Ivey, Harrison, Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Absent: 1 Hawkins</p> </p>			

10/22/2024 COW Favorably
recommended with
amendments

Action Text:

A motion was made by Council Member Dernoga, seconded by Council Member Olson, that this Council Bill be Favorably recommended with amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 Ivey, Harrison, Dernoga, Blegay, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Burroughs and Hawkins

10/22/2024 County Council introduced

Action Text:

This Council Bill was introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Ivey, Hawkins, Harrison, Olson and Watson.

11/19/2024 County Council public hearing held

Action Text:

The public hearing for this Council Bill was held.

11/19/2024 County Council enacted

Action Text:

A motion was made by Council Member Dernoga, seconded by Council Member Olson, that this Council Bill be enacted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 Ivey, Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Hawkins, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Harrison and Fisher

12/20/2024 County Executive Unsigned

Action Text:

The County Executive having failed to return this bill with either her approval or veto within ten (10) days after the date of its presentation to her, this bill became law on December 20, 2024.

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed legislation would regulate invasive bamboo including prohibiting a person from selling invasive bamboo, planting invasive bamboo or allowing invasive bamboo from growing on the property of the person without proper upkeep and appropriate containment measures including installing barriers and trenches. Under optimal conditions, bamboo can grow up to 35 inches per day. In Prince George's County, most bamboo plants grow to approximately 30 feet. The one species of bamboo is called Phyllostachys, Pleioblastus, otherwise called running bamboo. Bamboo is a type of perennial evergreen that belongs to the true grass family Poaceae, subfamily Bambusoideae, tribe Bambuseae. It grows quickly because of its rhizome system. Rhizomes are underground stems of plant that send out roots and

shoots from the nodes. Bamboos invasive nature threatens the biodiversity of Prince George's County ultimately causing environmental degradation. Additionally, some species can be toxic to livestock and birds. Bamboo spreads rapidly. Solutions that have been used to eradicate bamboo include: (1) Herbicide: Spraying glyphosate herbicide on bamboo buds; and (2) Cutting through rhizomes which must be done multiple times to weaken the rhizome system; and (3) Pruning bamboo by removing shoots which prevents them from photosynthesizing and providing nutrients to the roots and (4) Installing bamboo shields or barriers in that these work by keeping roots contained. They block the bamboo rhizomes from growing outwardly. Lastly, this proposed legislation authorizes Prince George's County to provide for the regulation requiring any damages caused by invasive bamboo to be eradicated. A person aggrieved by an alleged violation may file a written complaint (including electronic format) with the Department of Permitting Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). If bamboo is growing on property in violation of this Division, the property owner shall take action to implement appropriate containment measures within three (3) months. If the property owner fails to implement effective containment measures within three (3) months, the first fine is \$500.00 and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation.

Document(s): B2024072, CB-072-2024 Report, CB-072-2024 PAFI