

Department of Planning and Budget
2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2752

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Plum

3. Committee Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources

4. Title Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Act

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill creates the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Act within the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This bill declares the zebra mussel, quagga mussel, and all species of snakehead fishes of family Channidae as nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species. This bill authorizes the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to declare other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species if it finds that the presence of such nonindigenous aquatic species in state waters poses or is likely to pose a significant threat of harm.

The bill authorizes the department to take measures to suppress, control, eradicate, prevent or retard the spread of any nonindigenous aquatic species. It also provides for a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for any person that violates the provisions of the Act, and provides that such person is solely liable for the costs of investigation, control and eradication incurred by a state agency or local government.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are not available: SEE ITEM 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: The bill provides that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries may promulgate regulations, which will result in some minor costs related to staff time. It also provides that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may conduct operations to control or eradicate nonindigenous aquatic species subject to appropriation of general funds authorized for such purpose. Therefore, any fiscal impact on the department because of a minor situation that involves the eradication of a species in a small lake or a major outbreak of infestation of a nuisance species throughout the waters of the Commonwealth would be subject to appropriation. Considering that such events are impossible to predict, no future fiscal impact can be determined.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Othercomments: None.

Date: 02/06/03/mst

Document: G:\GaSessions \2003Session \Fis\Hb2752H1.Doc

cc:SecretaryofNaturalResources