

HCS HB 60 -- NONNATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS SPECIES

SPONSOR: Sassmann

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 60.

This bill requires that all nurseries and nursery dealers in the State submit to the Department of Agriculture an affidavit that they will not knowingly or intentionally import, export, buy, sell, transport, distribute, or propagate any plant or seeds of Coloratus variety of climbing euonymus, any variety of Japanese Honeysuckle, any variety of Sericea Lespedeza, or perilla mint beginning January 1, 2027, or the Compactus variety of Burning Bush or any variety of Callery Pear beginning January 1, 2029.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 2412 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that nonnative invasive plants threaten the State's forestry, cattle industries, and wildlife habitat. This bill would protect Missouri's landscape by stopping the sale and distribution of certain plants within the State. There are more than 100 nonnative invasive plants in the State, but this bill is limited to five prolific plants that are sold at retail in the State.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Sassmann; Carol Davit, Missouri Invasive Plant Council; William T. Ruppert, National Nursery Products; Zach Morris; Missouri Municipal League; Missouri Nature Conservancy; Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: No opposition was voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.