



House Bill 92

Procurement - Invasive Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: March 31, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 92. The bill prohibits the use of state funds to plant invasive plants based on a list from Fish and Wildlife Service for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The bill has been amended to only prohibit invasive plantings, with some exceptions. County concerns were directed at the bill as originally written that would have also included nonnative plants. MACo supports HB 92 as it passed the House. Counties use state funds such as Program Open Space for projects like grass sports fields. Nonnative grasses like Bermuda are widely used due to their durability. Bermuda in particular has a higher wear tolerance, and a lower irrigation requirement, making it a useful and cost-effective nonnative plant.

HB 92 has been amended to address county concerns, and accordingly MACo urges the Committee to give HB 92 a **FAVORABLE** report.