

introduced are explained in technical detail below.

Section-by-section summary:

Sec. 1: Amends §2-945.02 of the Noxious Weed Control Act which contains legislative findings and declarations. LB 807 replaces a reference to the Department of Agriculture to instead reference DWEE.

Sec. 2: Amends §2-953 which defines terms for purposes of the Noxious Weed Control Act including the term "director" currently defined to mean the Director of Agriculture. This term is redefined to mean the Director Water, Energy, and Environment. Multiple provisions throughout the Act assign duties and authorities to the "director" to carry out its purposes. This section of LB 807 in effect reassigns those duties and authorities to the Director of Water, Energy, and Environment.

Sec. 3: Amends §2-958, which creates the Noxious Weed Cash Fund, by striking an expired authorized use of the fund.

Sec. 4: Amends §2-958.02 which creates a grant program providing state aid support for projects led by local weed management entities to address noxious and invasive species problems. This section of LB 807 changes from permissive to mandatory the authority to award grants authorized by this section. The bill also reassigns rule and regulation authority to implement this section to DWEE. Subsection (4) of §2-958.02 creates a subcategory of eligible projects exclusively for riparian vegetation management projects and currently states legislative intent to appropriate \$3 million annually for that purpose. LB 807 increases the level of intended appropriation to \$6 million annually beginning in FY 2026-27.

Sec. 5: Amends §2-969 with a harmonizing revision to changes elsewhere in the bill.

Sec. 6: Amends §61-218 which creates the Water Resources Cash Fund and authorizes state aid assistance for projects related to integrated water management plans. Currently, this section prohibits fund proceeds to be used by political subdivision for administrative expenses or salaries. LB 807 expands this prohibition to state agencies.

Sec. 7: Repealer

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM1828) strikes the original sections and becomes the bill. The amendment in effect retains administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act with the Department of Agriculture rather than transferring it to DWEE, but transfers authority for grant funding providing state aid assistance to riparian vegetation management projects to DWEE.

Section 1 of AM1828 harmonizes §2-945.01 to the outright repeal of sections §2-969 and §2-970 in section 6 of AM1828. §2-969 and §2-970 create the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force and assign its duties.

Section 2 of AM1828 strikes subsection (4) of section §2-958.02 which creates the riparian management grant subprogram within the Noxious Weed Act. Section 3 of AM1828 amends §61-218, and section 4 of AM1828 inserts a new section, that in combination establish riparian vegetation management projects as eligible activities for state aid grant assistance provided through the Water Resources Cash Fund administered by DWEE. Section 4 prescribes eligible uses of grant funds to include riparian vegetation removal that improves streamflow conveyance and the acquisition of equipment related to that purpose. Eligible entities include natural resources districts, weed control



authorities, and other weed management entities. Priority in awarding grants under this program is given to applicants for projects within streams subject to an interstate compact or decree. Section 4 also delegates rule and regulation authority to carry out this section to DWEE.

Barry DeKay, Chairperson

