

ASSEMBLY, No. 2154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires posting of signs warning of presence of, and potential danger caused by, duckweed on water bodies in public parks.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning public safety at public parks, and
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.) and Title 40
3 of the Revised Statutes.
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
9 periodically, but at least annually at the appropriate season, survey
10 and inspect all ponds, lakes, and other water bodies located in any
11 State park or forest for the presence of duckweed (*Lemna* spp.).
12 Whenever duckweed is detected at any such pond, lake, or other
13 water body, the department shall erect a clear and conspicuous sign
14 or signs at the pond, lake, or other water body warning of the
15 presence of duckweed and the danger caused by its false appearance
16 of being a solid surface to walk upon.

17 b. The Department of Environmental Protection, in
18 consultation with the Department of Community Affairs, shall:

19 (1) develop educational materials on duckweed, including
20 information on how to identify it, which shall be distributed to
21 every county and municipality in the State for the purposes of
22 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
23 this bill);

24 (2) develop the language to be used on the warning signs
25 required pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
26 before the Legislature as this bill), and produce an appropriate
27 quantity of such signs for use by counties and municipalities; and

28 (3) distribute to any requesting county or municipality a
29 sufficient number of signs needed by the county or municipality to
30 comply with section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
31 Legislature as this bill).
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33 2. a. Every county and municipality shall periodically, but at
34 least once annually at the appropriate season, survey and inspect all
35 ponds, lakes, and other water bodies located in any public park it
36 owns for the presence of duckweed (*Lemna* spp.). Whenever
37 duckweed is detected at any such pond, lake, or other water body,
38 the county or municipality, as the case may be, shall erect a clear
39 and conspicuous sign or signs at the pond, lake, or other water body
40 warning of the presence of duckweed and the danger caused by its
41 false appearance of being a solid surface to walk upon.

42 b. A county or municipality may request the Department of
43 Environmental Protection to supply it with a sufficient number of
44 warning signs needed by the county or municipality to comply with
45 the requirements of subsection a. of this section. The department
46 shall supply those signs as required pursuant to subsection b. of
47 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
48 this bill).

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill would require the Department of Environmental
7 Protection (DEP), counties, and municipalities to periodically, but
8 at least annually at the appropriate season, survey and inspect all
9 ponds, lakes, and other water bodies located in any park they
10 respectively own for the presence of duckweed (*Lemna* spp.).
11 Duckweed is a small aquatic plant that floats on or just beneath the
12 surface of still or slow-moving bodies of freshwater and often
13 appears as a deceptively thick-looking mat on the water body's
14 surface.

15 The bill would require, whenever duckweed is detected at any
16 pond, lake, or other water body, the DEP, county, or municipality,
17 as the case may be, to erect a clear and conspicuous sign or signs at
18 the pond, lake, or other water body warning of the presence of
19 duckweed and the danger caused by its false appearance of being a
20 solid surface to walk upon. In addition, the bill would require the
21 DEP, in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs,
22 to:

23 (1) develop educational materials on duckweed, including
24 information on how to identify it, which would be distributed to
25 every county and municipality;

26 (2) develop the language to be used on the warning signs
27 required by the bill, and produce an appropriate quantity of these
28 signs for use by counties and municipalities; and

29 (3) distribute to any requesting county or municipality a
30 sufficient number of duckweed warning signs needed by the county
31 or municipality to comply with the bill's posting requirement.