



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 16, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 916

SHORT TITLE: Fish and Wildlife – Endangered and Threatened Species – Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports Senate Bill 916 because it adds a definition to the process by which changes are made to the Threatened and Endangered Species list.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department monitors populations of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species and periodically changes the legal protection status of native Maryland plants and wildlife. This bill refines the process by which changes are made to the regulations and defines a schedule for the Secretary of Natural Resources to bring changes forward.

BILL EXPLANATION

SB 916 refines the legal definition of a fish in Maryland, further describes what is needed for a listing petition, and charges the Department of Natural Resources with reviewing Threatened and Endangered species-related regulations every five years. It sets out scientific parameters for listing decisions. SB 916 further defines who may petition the Department to list a species as Threatened or Endangered or to remove a species from the list of protected species and what information is required in such a petition.

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