

Chapter 329

(Senate Bill 722)

AN ACT concerning

Department of the Environment – Definition of Ecological Restoration

FOR the purpose of defining the term “ecological restoration” as an activity undertaken with the goal of recovering, re-establishing, or enhancing a degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystem through certain measures; ~~requiring the Department of the Environment to update certain regulations under certain circumstances to incorporate the definition of ecological restoration or be consistent with the definition of ecological restoration;~~ and generally relating to ecological restoration.

BY adding to

Article – Environment

Section 1-1001 ~~and 1-1002~~ to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Ecological Restoration”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment**SUBTITLE 10. ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.****1-1001.**

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION” MEANS AN ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOAL OF RECOVERING, RE-ESTABLISHING, OR ENHANCING A DEGRADED, DAMAGED, OR DESTROYED ECOSYSTEM THROUGH:

(1) IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, OR BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OR PROCESSES;

(2) RETURNING NATURAL OR HISTORICAL FUNCTIONS OR SERVICES;
OR

(3) PROTECTING OR IMPROVING RESILIENCY.

~~**1-1002.**~~

~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL UPDATE ANY RELEVANT REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO, AS APPROPRIATE:~~

~~(1) INCORPORATE THE DEFINITION OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION;~~
~~OR~~

~~(2) BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFINITION OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.