

SENATE BILL 722

M3, M1

5lr3106
CF 5lr2029

By: **Senators Henson and Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of the Environment – Ecological Restoration**

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

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Environment

11 Section 1–1001 and 1–1002 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Ecological
12 Restoration”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Environment**

18 **SUBTITLE 10. ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.**

19 **1–1001.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **(2) RETURNING NATURAL OR HISTORICAL FUNCTIONS OR SERVICES;**
4 **OR**

5 **(3) PROTECTING OR IMPROVING RESILIENCY.**

6 **1-1002.**

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

9 **(1) INCORPORATE THE DEFINITION OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION;**
10 **OR**

11 **(2) BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFINITION OF ECOLOGICAL**
12 **RESTORATION.**

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