

SENATE BILL 722

M3, M1

5lr3106
CF HB 1155

By: **Senators Henson and Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of the Environment – Definition of 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.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

8 (3) PROTECTING OR IMPROVING RESILIENCY.

9 ~~1-1002.~~

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.