



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

---

February 14, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 345**

**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 House Bill 345 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**

---

HB 345 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. HB 345 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.