



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 722  
Department of the Environment - Ecological Restoration***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** February 18, 2025  
**From:** Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 722 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 722 adds a new Subtitle 10, “Ecological Restoration,” to the Environment Article. The bill creates a definition for “ecological restoration” and requires MDE to update relevant regulations to align with this definition.

**Position Rationale**

The definition of “ecological restoration” proposed in SB 722 is consistent with the definition MDE put forth in Recommendation 1A of its Ecological Restoration Permitting Study Report (submitted to the Governor and General Assembly on August 6, 2024). In this report, MDE recommended that the proposed definition should be adopted by the General Assembly and supports this section of the bill.

The term “ecological restoration” does not appear in existing regulations based on a cursory review by MDE and there is the potential for a significant fiscal impact and increased operational impact if MDE needs to conduct a large-scale review and overhaul of regulations.

After discussion with the bill stakeholders, MDE understands there is an agreement to strike the regulations requirement from the bill, removing the fiscal and operational impacts.

For the reasons detailed above MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 722.

**Amendment**

[Strikes regulation review and update requirement from bill]

On page 1, strike beginning with “requiring” on line 5 down through “restoration;” in line 8, inclusive; and in line 11 strike “and 1-1002”.

On page 2, strike beginning with “**1-1002.**” in line 6 down through “**RESTORATION.**” in line 12, inclusive.

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