



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

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

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** March 26, 2025  
**From:** Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

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

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 722 adds a new Subtitle 10, “Ecological Restoration,” to the Environment Article. The bill creates a definition for “ecological restoration” in statute.

**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 including it in statute.

MDE supports the bill as it passed the Senate. The amendments strike the regulations requirement from the bill, removing the fiscal and operational impacts to the Department.

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