



Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2025

HB 878

Delegates Hill, Ruth, and Terrasa



The Problem

- Vernal pools are unique, small ecosystems that support biodiversity including state-endangered tiger salamander
- Vernal pools provide vital ecosystem services such as replenishing groundwater and filtering stormwater
- Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that are often overlooked and filled or poorly managed
- Vernal pools are being lost at a rapid rate because they often do not meet current MDE wetlands regulations or qualify for federal protections under the interpreted Clean Water Act

These organizations say Maryland needs to protect vernal pools

The Solution

- Act would designate vernal pools as named wetlands in MDE regulations
- Act would protect vernal pools supporting amphibian species, including buffers needed to support full life cycle
- Act would require MDE to prepare a plan for identify vernal pools to the extent practicable and economically feasible

Pass this bill to protect vernal pools within Maryland wetlands regulations and provide useful information to the public

For more information, please visit vernalpoolpartners.org or contact

mark@vernalpoolpartners.org

and visit USEPA: An Introduction to Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Pools

