



# Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2024

**HB729**

**Delegates Hill, McComas, Taylor, Terrasa, and Williams**



## 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 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 a 100-foot buffer needed to support full life cycle
- Act would require MDE to prepare a plan for providing the public with location of vernal pools and other wetlands

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

For more information, please contact **Vernal Pool Partners** at [mark@vernalpoolpartners.org](mailto:mark@vernalpoolpartners.org)

and visit [USEPA: An Introduction to Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Pools](#)

