



Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2025 HB 878

Sponsor Delegate Terri Hill
Co-sponsors 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

Maryland needs to protect vernal pools

The Solution

- Act would designate vernal pools as protected wetlands in MDE regulations
- Act would protect vernal pools supporting breeding of obligate and facultative species, including buffers needed to support the full life cycle
- Act would develop a plan to identify vernal pools in Maryland 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 contact **Vernal Pool Partners** at mark@vernalpoolpartners.org

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

