

Chapter 567

(House Bill 457)

AN ACT concerning

Environment – Synthetic Turf – ~~Chain of Custody~~ Disclosure and Study

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of the Environment to establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf installed on sports and playing fields in the State; requiring the custodian of a synthetic turf sports or playing field installed in the State to report chain of custody information to the Department on or before a certain date or within a certain amount of time after the completion of the installation, whichever is later; requiring the new custodian of synthetic turf that was removed after the chain of custody information was reported to the Department under this Act to report updated chain of custody information to the Department; requiring the Department to serve as the custodian for chain of custody information submitted under this Act and develop and maintain a website that includes certain chain of custody information; requiring a producer or seller of synthetic turf to disclose to a customer certain maintenance and cost information and certain reporting requirements; requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with representatives of the synthetic turf industry, local environmental and community stakeholders, and synthetic turf producers, retailers, and users, to conduct a certain study;~~ requiring a producer or seller of synthetic turf to disclose to a customer certain maintenance and cost information and certain reporting requirements; requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with representatives of the synthetic turf industry, local environmental and community stakeholders, and synthetic turf producers, retailers, and users, to conduct a certain study; and generally relating to synthetic turf.

BY adding to

Article – Environment

Section ~~9-2601 through and 9-2604 9-2605 9-2602~~ to be under the new subtitle

“Subtitle 26. Synthetic Turf”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment

SUBTITLE 26. SYNTHETIC TURF.

9-2601.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

~~(B) “CUSTODIAN” MEANS:~~

~~(1) A PERSON THAT OWNS OR IS IN CONTROL OF SYNTHETIC TURF IN THE STATE; OR~~

~~(2) ANY CURRENT OR SUBSEQUENT OWNER OF A PROPERTY ON WHICH THERE IS EXISTING SYNTHETIC TURF.~~

~~(C)~~ (B) “PRODUCER” MEANS A PERSON THAT:

(1) OWNS OR LICENSES A TRADEMARK OR BRAND UNDER WHICH SYNTHETIC TURF IS SOLD, OFFERED FOR SALE, DISTRIBUTED, OR OFFERED FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE; OR

(2) IMPORTS SYNTHETIC TURF INTO THE STATE FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION.

~~(D)~~ (C) (1) “SYNTHETIC TURF” MEANS PLASTIC TUFTED CARPET THAT:

(I) IS INTENDED TO HAVE, OR INCIDENTALY HAS, AN APPEARANCE THAT MIMICS GRASS;

(II) FUNCTIONS AS A REPLACEMENT FOR GRASS; AND

(III) HAS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF BEING USED AS AN INDOOR OR OUTDOOR SPORTS OR PLAYING FIELD; ~~AND~~

~~(IV) IS AT LEAST 5,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE.~~

(2) “SYNTHETIC TURF” INCLUDES SHOCK PADS AND TURF INFILL.

~~(E)~~ (D) “TURF INFILL” MEANS A MATERIAL THAT:

(1) IS Poured ON TOP OF SYNTHETIC TURF TO HOLD SYNTHETIC TURF BLADES IN PLACE;

(2) WEIGHS DOWN THE SYNTHETIC TURF SO IT DOES NOT DEVELOP WRINKLES OR BUCKLE;

(3) MIMICS THE IMPACT ABSORPTION PROPERTIES OF SOIL UNDER NATURAL GRASS; AND

(4) INCLUDES SHREDDED OR GRANULATED TIRE, RUBBER, SILICA SAND, OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT IS USED AS INFILL ON SYNTHETIC TURF.

9-2602.

~~(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO TRACK THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF SYNTHETIC TURF INSTALLED ON SPORTS AND PLAYING FIELDS IN THE STATE, FROM THE TRANSPORTATION, INSTALLATION, AND REMOVAL OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF TO ITS REUSE, RECYCLING, AND FINAL DISPOSAL.~~

~~(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, OR WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER, THE CUSTODIAN OF A SYNTHETIC TURF SPORTS OR PLAYING FIELD INSTALLED IN THE STATE, INCLUDING A REPLACEMENT OR BRAND NEW SYNTHETIC TURF SPORTS OR PLAYING FIELD, SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:~~

~~(1) THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND STREET ADDRESS OF THE INSTALLED SYNTHETIC TURF;~~

~~(2) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF:~~

~~(i) THE CUSTODIAN OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~

~~(ii) THE PRODUCER OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF; AND~~

~~(iii) THE BUSINESS OR CONTRACTOR THAT INSTALLED THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~

~~(3) THE TYPE AND BRAND OF SYNTHETIC TURF INSTALLED;~~

~~(4) THE AREA OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF IN SQUARE FEET;~~

~~(5) THE WEIGHT OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~

~~(6) THE DATE THE SYNTHETIC TURF WAS INSTALLED; AND~~

~~(7) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE SYNTHETIC TURF IS REMOVED AFTER THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION IS REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE NEW CUSTODIAN OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT:~~

~~(i) THE NEW GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND STREET ADDRESS OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~

~~(ii) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF:~~

- ~~1. THE TRANSPORTER OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF; AND~~
- ~~2. THE NEW CUSTODIAN OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~
- ~~(III) THE AREA OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF IN SQUARE FEET;~~
- ~~(IV) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE WEIGHT OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF;~~
- ~~(V) HOW THE SYNTHETIC TURF IS USED AT THE NEW LOCATION, INCLUDING WHETHER THE SYNTHETIC TURF IS RECYCLED, PROCESSED FOR FINAL DISPOSAL, OR USED TO REFURBISH OR REPLACE A SPORTS OR PLAYING FIELD;~~
- ~~(VI) IF THE SYNTHETIC TURF IS INSTALLED AT A SPORTS OR PLAYING FIELD, THE DATE OF INSTALLATION; AND~~
- ~~(VII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REASONABLY RELATED TO THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF SYNTHETIC TURF, AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(2) A NEW CUSTODIAN OF SYNTHETIC TURF THAT TRANSPORTS THE SYNTHETIC TURF FOR USE OR DISPOSAL OUT OF STATE SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I), (II)1, (III), (IV), AND (VII) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(D) CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION SHALL BE:~~

- ~~(1) REPORTED IN WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND~~
- ~~(2) IN A FORM REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(E) A CUSTODIAN MAY NOT BE PENALIZED FOR VARIATION IN THE WEIGHT TOTALS REPORTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~9-2603.~~

~~(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

~~(1) SERVE AS THE REPOSITORY FOR THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND~~

~~(2) MAINTAIN THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION PERMANENTLY.~~

~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE THAT INCLUDES:~~

~~(1) THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 9-2602 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND~~

~~(2) THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH CUSTODIAN THAT PROVIDED THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY INFORMATION.~~

~~9-2604.~~

A PRODUCER OR SELLER OF SYNTHETIC TURF SHALL, BEFORE THE SALE OF SYNTHETIC TURF, DISCLOSE TO A CUSTOMER:

(1) THE MAINTENANCE THAT IS TYPICALLY PERFORMED THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN OF SYNTHETIC TURF; AND

(2) THE ~~INDUSTRY STANDARD~~ TYPICAL COST FOR:

(I) REMOVING SYNTHETIC TURF;

(II) REPLACING SYNTHETIC TURF; AND

(III) DISPOSING OF SYNTHETIC TURF; AND

~~(3) THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 9-2602 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~9-2605.~~

~~(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON THAT VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000.~~

~~(B) A PENALTY MAY NOT BE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS A PERSON IS FIRST ISSUED A WRITTEN NOTICE OF VIOLATION.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Synthetic Turf Council and other representatives of the synthetic turf industry, local environmental and community stakeholders, and synthetic turf producers, retailers, and users, including local governments, county school systems, higher education facilities, and professional sports organizations, shall conduct a study on:

- (1) synthetic turf;
- (2) existing synthetic turf fields in the State; and
- (3) the synthetic turf industry in the State.

(b) On or before July 1, 2026, the Department shall submit a report of its findings to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

(c) The report required under subsection (b) of this section shall include:

- (1) industry information and background;
- (2) methodologies used for data collection, including public hearings and other public outreach;
- (3) current industry practices and guidelines relating to the sale, maintenance, reuse, and disposal of synthetic turf;
- (4) current industry disposal methods of synthetic turf, including known locations of such disposal;
- (5) proper and improper disposal methods of synthetic turf;
- (6) current recycling rates and methods of synthetic turf and future recycling proposals;
- (7) factors influencing disposal and recycling;
- (8) case studies and examples; and
- (9) proposals for improving recycling rates and waste management.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.