



## **HB857 ENVIRONMENT - SYNTHETIC TURF AND TURF INFILL - CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND REUSE**

February 24, 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### **SUPPORT**

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

---

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB857 Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody and Reuse**. This bill requires a producer of synthetic turf and turf infill sold or distributed in the State, and an owner of previously installed synthetic turf and turf infill, to establish a system to track the chain of custody of affected products. The chain of custody information must be transmitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MDE must 1) publish the chain of custody information on its website and 2) develop and maintain a website that includes all chain of custody information it receives as well as other related information. The bill also prohibits the reuse of synthetic turf and turf infill except under specified circumstances.

AACPS appreciates the sponsor's efforts to address the concerns with the legislation as it was introduced last Legislative Session. While these efforts are certainly appreciated, AACPS has concerns with Section 9-2303 of this bill which restricts the reuse and disposal of synthetic turf and turf infill material unless a written waiver is obtained from MDE. This provision will create an unfunded mandate as it will increase costs of turf fields and future budgets during replacements of these fields. AACPS currently uses recycled infill on replacement fields.

The school system has a long-standing partnership and agreement with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks to collaboratively install, maintain, and schedule use of synthetic turf fields at AACPS high schools. As drafted, this legislation could seriously jeopardize this partnership and decrease access to and playtime on fields throughout Anne Arundel County. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to strike Section 9-2303 from the bill.

While it is difficult to quantify, we estimate that this legislation could cost AACPS \$3 million per year if existing synthetic fields would need to be converted back to irrigated grass fields.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report with the proposed amendments on HB857.